

TOC H JOURNAL



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SUPPLEMENT

Report of Central Council Meeting i—viii

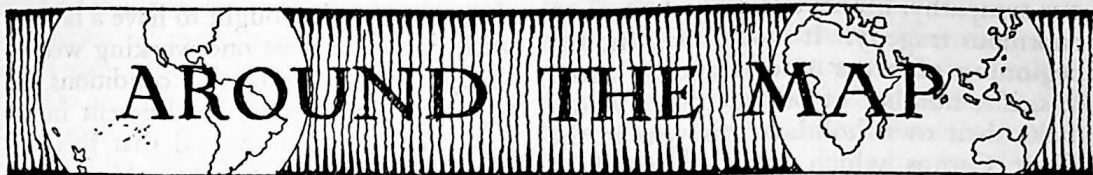
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This Month's Journal

An 8-page report of the Central Council Meeting on April 30 comes with this month's issue. In another 'supplement' (pages 257-268) we have gone gay—with serious moments—on the subject of "Holidays," in eight items. The 'Effective Service' series is continued with an article on what Toc H can do in connection with Borstal (page 239). The short series on "Personality" is concluded (page 243). An article (page 238) on the "Renewal of Branch Status" should be specially useful to a number of units.



AROUND THE MAP

A CORRESPONDENT writes that he and his friends "like the platform represented by 'Around the Map,' but we do not like the policy: it was bad enough when we had a new hare to chase once a year, but the monthly hare will drive us crazy." To which one answer seems to be that because a hare comes in sight doesn't mean that you are bound to chase it—unless you happen to be a greyhound which is apparently in duty bound to go all out after any wisp of electric fluff. So let us loose another hare this month—at the same time saying "Take it or leave it." We hope you will take it—for it is a holiday. We occasionally come across members who don't take holidays—they say, unconvincingly, that they are too busy—and they are not nice men to know. They are so apt to grow liverish and proud and indispensable and virtuous, which things are a bore.

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We cannot hope for many letters of protest from readers against the necessity of taking a holiday some time, somewhere, but the manner of the holiday is, of course, a "controversial subject" on which members, true to Toc H principle, must be allowed to hold contradictory opinions and be asked 'to think fairly' about each other. Bill has told us that, of course, he is taking the wife and children to the old pitch again—there's nothing like it. For there is still room on the beach at Black-end-super-Mare for his deckchair; the pier show is bound to be good and when it rains you can always go to the pictures. Bertram is still undecided. The Island of Ardnasay and the Republic of Ruritania, his happy hunting grounds, have been

"discovered" at last by a tourist agency and are overcrowded: he met someone else every day there last year. Is there any place in Europe left where humanity doesn't fall over itself? Jim did 3,000 miles in the "old bus" last Summer and hopes to beat it this August; Jack dreams of sitting day after day watching for his float to bob in the placid river. Alec looks forward, secretly, to the little hotel on the Belgian sand dunes where the "grub is scrumptious"; Arthur will, as usual, cook porridge in camp. By choice or necessity different members want to be more or less comfortable and expensive, more or less strenuous or restful, crowded or solitary in their holidays than they are for the rest of the year. It depends on temperament, opportunity, occupation and income, and those all vary infinitely among us.

* * * *

Holidays are far from being a flippant subject. Not only are they taken seriously by those who look forward to a little leisure, but they are connected with some of the toughest problems of the time. There are still a million and three-quarters of our fellow citizens whose whole life, in some cases year after year, is an enforced holiday. Leisure for the man out of work is something to which he has no need to look forward, but a thing to be dreaded and loathed. Instead of joy it spells gloom, in place of re-creation of body, mind and spirit it tends to bring progressive deterioration of all three. The patience, in thousands of cases rising to gallantry, with which men and women in our midst face the holiday of unemployment often lulls our sense that their plight is urgent, saps

our sympathy, blunts our realisation of an enormous tragedy. It would be a modest beginning of better understanding about this, if a number of our members would make their own holidays this year in the Work Camps which were described by John Hoyland in last month's JOURNAL. Especially those of us who live in the South, suffering more than we know from prosperity, could benefit ourselves as well as unemployed men by such neighbourly service.

* * * *

Then there are the great numbers of people whose holiday-time is not only short but their means of using it to good advantage even shorter. As an interesting pamphlet on *Recreation in Industry*, just published by the Industrial Welfare Society, 14, Hobart Place, S.W.1. (1s. 2d. post free), says:—

"Until recently holidays were outside the experience of most industrial workers, except for bank holiday excursions and the 'Wakes Weeks' traditional in some of the older industrial towns. With the coming of motor buses, cheap cars and cycles there has been an enormous extension and cheapening of holiday facilities, and this has led to widespread changes in social habits, so that holidays are now a part of the standard of living aimed at by nearly everyone. In industry, an increasing number of employers are giving holidays with pay either under collective agreement or by voluntary action, and the system is proving its value for health and industrial goodwill."

* * * *

On this last point, which is the pass-key to many a worker's holiday, a Committee appointed by the Ministry of Labour sat taking much evidence last Summer and has just issued its report. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Amulree, represented employers' and workers' organisations and its conclusions were unanimous. They lay down the principle

that every worker ought to have a holiday with pay of at least one working week—though they recognise that conditions and terms of employment in different industries vary enormously and that this will take some time to achieve. Meanwhile, they propose legalisation at once (i) to give power to bodies which regulate wages (Trade Boards, Agricultural Wages Committees and other statutory bodies) to provide for holidays with pay; and (ii) to entitle all in domestic service to two weeks' annual holiday with pay. The report has many points of interest—not least the statement that out of the 18,500,000 manual workers and non-manual workers in England earning less than £250 a year, rather more than 40 per cent. (7,750,000) are already receiving paid holidays in some form.

* * * *

In these days of traffic congestion and housing shortage, another aspect of holidays has lately forced itself on public attention and has introduced a new and unlovely technical term into our language—"staggered" holidays. Hosts of holiday-makers have come to take it for granted that August is the moment in the year to stop work, rather in the same way as quite a number of people believe that 11 o'clock on Sunday morning is the moment in the week to take up religion. Actually a spread-over is much better, consecutively in the case of holidays and continually in the case of religion. Because August is "the holiday month" (the newspapers call it the "silly season") the myth has grown up that it is the warmest and driest part of the year, the ideal time for out-of-doors. The meteorologists, though a fallible race, know better. June is usually, October very often, far lovelier. But business has acquired a trick of slowing down for August; parents have always been tied down by the school-holidays to

it. And so we all rush into the bottle-neck of August by overcrowded trains, charabancs and roads to overcrowded lodgings, beaches and mountain tops. One result is that people get in the way of each other's enjoyment. Another is that prices rush up to their peak in the holiday resorts, because the season is so short and hay must be made while the sun shines. A third result, scarcely at all realised by the holiday-makers themselves, is that those who cater for them in lodgings, shops and places of amusement may be as desperately underworked after the season as they are overworked during it: the seaside resort that seems to be coining money during the fortnight they live in it, sometimes becomes literally a distressed area for more than half the year after they leave it. For the whole community, its comfort and its business, as well as for our own individual sakes, there is a lot to be said for "staggering" holidays.

* * * *

IT WAS most fitting that the Central Council Meeting ended with a tribute to Sutherland Graeme, its retiring Chairman, and a happy circumstance that the 'vote of thanks' was proposed by a member from the Eastern Area, where he has served so long, and seconded by a member from Scotland, the native heath to which he now returns (see page vii of the Council report). The applause of the Councillors was a great deal more than formal. For "S. G." is an outstanding example to all of us of the good member. Others can speak of his public service as Deputy-Judge-Advocate-General. We think of him as a man who has made good at all stages of a Toc H member's career. Since 1925, when he was elected at Harpenden, he has never ceased to be a very active working member of his own unit. His District knows him intimately; for the past eight years he has been Chairman of

the Eastern Area; since 1928 he has been a member of the Central Executive and since 1935 its Chairman. In the limited leisure of a busy life he has made time to serve many causes, local and national, but, as he told the Council, he has loved most of all to serve men through Toc H. He has gone about among his fellow-members, getting to know them as friends and so to lead them. And they, in their turn, have given him their confidence and their true affection. In the remote Orkneys, the beloved home to which "S.G." now retires, he will not be forgotten by Toc H. We shall hope to see him sometimes and shall count him on the active list always.

* * * *

The many members who have known George MacLeod, whether in Edinburgh, as a full-time Toc H Padre in Glasgow (he resigned this office in 1926), or as Minister of Govan Parish Church for the past eight years, will be eager to congratulate him on his new job. Experience with young men in the Kirk and in Toc H and with the problems of unemployment and poverty in a Glasgow slum seem to have marked him out for it: add to these his passion for the sacred island of Iona, of which all his friends know. The Church of Scotland is buckling to its task of ministering to the congested areas and to the new housing estates, and is preparing to extend a system of "team ministries" which has been in action in Govan and some other large parishes. This work needs the right men, specially trained, and George MacLeod has been chosen to do the training. The trustees of Iona Abbey have given leave for a "log-hut settlement" to be erected in the grounds of the Abbey; there is already a dream that the original Abbey may be rebuilt as a permanent centre. And here a small community of twenty probationers

each year is to live during the summer months and from here to be drafted to the under-staffed areas, two by two in apostolic wise, for work under parish ministers on a two-years' contract. As members of the community they will receive £50 and their keep—and the leadership and example of George MacLeod which cannot be assessed on nearly so modest a scale.

* * * *

At various times readers of the JOURNAL have seen the name of Capitaine Etienne Bach in these pages and a few of them have come into touch with the Knights of Peace—*Chevaliers de la Paix*, the society for international friendship of which he was the founder and great inspiration. Need we tell the story again of how a serving French officer sent his men out to meet a hostile crowd in an occupied German town *unarmed*, and how the crowd fell silent and melted away; or of how he knelt Sunday by Sunday to receive his Communion in a little German Protestant meeting, alongside men he had had occasion to reprimand and fine—and became their friend? Those few who listened to him one afternoon in the Upper Room at Poperinghe, or the many who may have heard him speak elsewhere, know that he has real prophetic utterance. And now he writes to us to say that he has become a pastor in the French Protestant Church with "a big parish and an immense work" in Savoy. His letter (in translation) goes on:—

"Only, I must add that, like all the pastors of France, we receive so little that it is a *tour de force* to live. One thousand French francs" (i.e., about £7) "a month. Consequently one has to economise to the last centime. I am, therefore, just resigning from the societies to which I belong, and for the sole reason that it is impossible to fulfil my financial obligations towards them. And so I must do the same for my Toc H. I say 'my,' because I love it

deeply, and I shall remain a member at heart. Accept the resignation of a Frenchman become poor. Thanks for your friendship. And if I can be of use to you, I am at your grand service."

The answer to this letter from Headquarters was clear—a renewal of Pastor Etienne Bach's membership on the honorary and honorable terms which it grants to any member who is so hard put to it. And we wish him every blessing in his great new job.

* * * *

Members in many lands have come to know and use the Prayer of that humble and courageous man, St. Richard of Chichester. It seems, therefore, all the more appropriate that the Dean and Chapter of Chichester have proposed that a Chapel in the Cathedral should be associated with the work of Toc H in Sussex. In various churches in the world Toc H has been given a place for its Lamp, but this is the first English Cathedral to offer it a corner as a 'spiritual home,' and members in Sussex are grateful. For the purpose the 13th century Chapel of St. Thomas and St. Edmund has been selected as most suitable, for it was restored as a memorial to one of the Elder Brethren, Lieut. Noel Roland Abbey of the Grenadier Guards, who fell in action before the Forest of Nieppe in 1918; it was furnished in his memory and is in frequent use. Historically the Chapel is of special interest as having been built and consecrated by St. Richard himself, whose body was laid to rest there. Born at Wych (now Droitwich) Richard de la Wych became Chancellor of Oxford University and in 1245 was appointed Bishop of Chichester. King Henry III, who had put forward a candidate unfit for the office of bishop, seized all the revenues of the see and St. Richard was reduced to dire poverty. He went about quietly doing his work for two years

of deprivation, and then presided over the diocese with piety and zeal for five more years. This Sussex saint won the hearts of all men who met him by his simple goodness and courtesy. Earlier in his life it is said that, finding his brother in difficulties over his affairs, Richard became his servant and by his conscientious work retrieved the estate. He is a fine pattern for Toc H of fairmindedness, fellowship and service for the Kingdom of God.

* * * *

News reaches us from Jerusalem of the real interest taken by the Branch there in a School for the Deaf run by the "Thankful Hearts League." A report of the school contains frequent references to the help of Toc H members which seems to have been of a very varied nature, ranging from giving a much-needed bath to a recalcitrant small boy of seven (this job was adequately performed by two sergeant-major members) to studying the method of teaching a deaf child to speak. At Christmas the Branch Chairman "created quite a stir in St. Paul's Road" by riding up to the school on a donkey, dressed as Father Christmas. "Whenever a tap wants a new washer or a branch of a tree needs cutting off, we send out an S.O.S. and Toc H responds." A diversity of talents certainly seems to be called out by this work, each a true expression of a real spirit of friendship in action.

* * * *

It has been said that the first thing a Scotsman would do if shipwrecked on a desert island would be to form a branch of the Caledonian Society. In Shanghai our Scottish members have been running true to form, and a "Scots' Night," arranged and carried out by Highland members of the Branch, was held recently. The attendance totalled 24, not including sundry haggises which were duly piped in in traditional style. The serious part of the

evening was provided by a talk on the activities of Toc H in Scotland, while light relief was provided by concerted efforts on the part of the assembled company to sing Scottish songs, by a round of Scotch stories and by a foursome reel danced by four members in the national dress of their forefathers. Possibly the success of the Branch's Blood Transfusion service, mentioned in this column in February, is merely a subtle method of introducing Scottish blood (and Scottish national characteristics) into the community at large.

* * * *

From Wellington, New Zealand, comes news of the inauguration of a Lunch Club which at present meets regularly each Friday in a local cafe. It is hoped that this may be the beginning of something more pretentious. Recent visitors included two lads off the s/s *Remuera* who knew the Lunch Club at "Forty-Two."

* * * *

Hospitality to the crews of visiting ships of the merchant service is one of the main jobs tackled by Toc H units in new Zealand ports, and is one in which General Members find it possible to share. Members of the Auckland Branch recently entertained the cadets from the m/v *Port Alma*, en route for London, and report that about twenty cadets and the Captain were all definitely interested.

* * * *

The missionary spirit seems to be very much in evidence in Australia. A small Group of thirteen members in Victoria recently sent the following letter to the Area Treasurer:

"... Enclosed please find sum of £10—a present from the chaps of our Group to the Area. It is suggested that this money might be used to advantage for extension in the country districts. This is only a suggestion. . . ."

RENEWAL

It is just about this time of the year that many Branches, whose tenure of Branch status is due to expire at the end of the year, give thought to their further existence in their present state. The temptation to use the occasion for some slight attempt at "window-dressing" is not easy to resist, but mainly it is looked upon as a time of self-examination and honest facing-up to the responsibilities of maintaining the quality of life and service demanded of Branches. Let this article, written by "THE PADRE," published in "Light on Toc H" in the West Midlands Area, October, 1937, and re-published here with permission and slight adaptation, give courage to the humble and humility to the courageous.

EVERY unit of Toc H should have those of age and experience as well as those who are younger among its membership. A man of forty is set for life and cannot change.

If both these statements are true, then the life of Toc H will be full of strife, age versus youth, the old units versus the young units. But a man *can* change, and whether we like it or not, units are always changing, and growth is only possible on the assumption that no man, no unit, need be set, rigid and unchangeable.

1. *Every Group should aim to become a Branch.*

That statement should be as obvious as that every boy should aim to become a man. The fact that both Groups and boys grow older does not necessarily imply that either grow wiser, stronger, healthier or happier. Manhood is revealed in an attitude to life, not in length of days and the ability to smoke, swear, and grow a moustache. Branch status is similarly revealed in an attitude to life, and not in the possession of a Lamp, Banner, a Branch constitution, and a variety of what-nots round the walls of a Branch headquarters.

A Group is a probationary Branch and a Branch is the working unit of Toc H, and when a Group becomes a Branch it begins its real work and has not reached the limit of its attainments, henceforward only to keep up its standard or to sink below it.

Therefore a Group must always be working to fit itself to start its real work, which it cannot do until it becomes a Branch. A Group, though revelling in all its life as a Group, can never be fully satisfied, must always know itself limited and unable to practise the art of living together as a Group. Its aim is not the possession of a Lamp and the title of Branch, but the attainments of the art of living together. It is impatient to learn that art, but content to learn slowly and week by week.

2. *Re-application is a privilege, not a penalty.*

When the Central Executive of Toc H decided that after a certain date Branch status should only be granted for three years, every existing Branch in this Area willingly submitted itself to this arrangement, though no compulsion was used to force submission. This implied their belief in the truth of the statement that heads this paragraph.

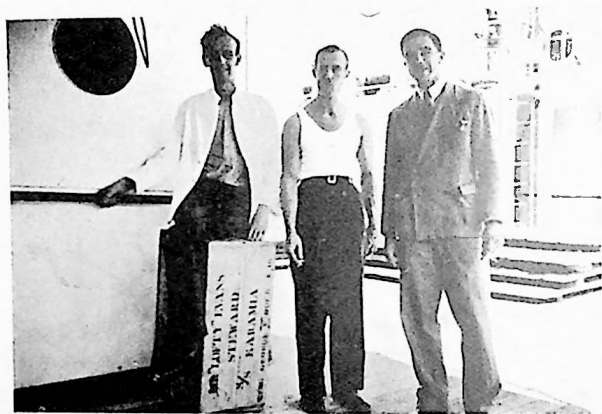
The general idea was that it is good for those who have once earned the right to call themselves members of a working unit of Toc H to reassess their fitness for this title, and also that it is invaluable for members who have arrived since Branch status was granted to share the joy of re-earning Branch status.

I think all accepted the truth of their words, but as the time for re-application has drawn nearer, some Branches have sought to cover up their poverty, knowing



PATRICK SUTHERLAND GRAEME.
Chairman of Toe II, 1935-1938 (see page 235).

PLATE XXII.



HOW SOME OF THE NEW LAMPS CAME HOME.

Above—left: ELMWOOD BRANCH, CANADA.—The Branch Pilot, A. D. Kelly, receives the new Lamp from C. E. Huntling, Chairman of the Winnipeg Area.

Above—right: KINGSTON BRANCH, JAMAICA.—Sir Edward Denham, Governor of Jamaica, hands the Lamp to Padre Lovell. Behind—on the left, R. W. Youngman (Branch Chairman); in centre, Horace Reid; on right, Leslie Mordecai.

Below: NEW ZEALAND.—The case containing the new Lamps of Invercargill, New Plymouth, Christchurch North, Timaru and Wellington South Branches, is handed over to Brian Billings (right) by 'Lofty' Evans (left), a steward and Toc H member on board S.S. *Karamia* at Sydney, N.S.W. for re-shipment to New Zealand.

they were unfit but dreading that theirs should be the degradation of knowing that they had failed.

How human and understandable! Yet how foolish! None of them would say that they prefer the shadow to the substance, but that is what their action implied. So they were forced to pretend that things were better than they appeared or that after a lapse they were really on the up-grade. Yet if they had only seen the need for living together all the previous three years and of making progress in that art, there would have been no need for that last minute fight to cling to the shadow even though the substance had departed. And those who, through their own fault or not, had faltered would see a period of 'groping,' not as shame but as another chance to earn what they had lost. The opportunity of starting again is every man's inalienable right, and no man, save he himself, can take it away from him. It is our glory, not our shame, and there is little difference between the Branch that accepts that right as a re-building of their life or in renewed period of Branch status.

3. *The right to start again.*

Yet there is a reason for some Branches to build afresh, first by 'groping' and then as a recognised Group, not because they have failed but because they have succeeded gloriously.

Birmingham Branch, the Mother of all living in the West Midlands Area, did

that, and then finally surrendered Group status, and some of its members joined another family. Was this failure? It was success. Many tens of families started because that Branch through the years was content to die that others might live, and their end was not ignoble, but the brave acceptance of the fact that the shadow of things is not worth having.

Another Group recently applied for Branch status, then withdrew its application because it felt that four of its members must go to keep alive a weak neighbouring family. It was not afraid to see its hopes die.

Toc H must not be afraid to die.

As we see this, I can visualize some time at our Area Executive meetings being spent in recognising as Groups those former Branches who, maybe because they have started new units and therefore lost members, have voluntarily surrendered their Lamp and Status, ceased to exist and re-started from the earliest stages of 'groping.' They want to build on surer and firmer foundations than their previous structure boasted; they want to start earning Branch status again—or better, they wish to share with other and fresh people the joy of learning to live together.

Conceived like this, Branch and Group status is a much more fluid thing than we sometimes conceive it; but there is always a flowing tide where life is, and it is our aim to live and to be alive.

J. P.

EFFECTIVE SERVICE—IV

Borstal and After—What Toc H can do

We print this month an article by Mr. R. A. FORGE, Assistant Director of the Borstal Association, about the work of the Association and the part which Toc H members can play in supplementing the work of the official Associate.

IT was Ruskin, I think, who wrote that "Crime cannot be hindered by punishment; it can only be hindered and checked

by education, and education not only of the mind but of the heart." That brief sentence sums up the attitude of those re-

formers who, for the past twenty years, have had charge of our penal administration and who, by the adoption of the positive principle of reform of heart and mind as against the negative one of mere punishment or retributive treatment, have shaped legislative aims and penal administration during the last two decades to provide remedial effort without undue softening of the disciplinary code.

In the comparatively new science of psychology it has been found that crime and neuroses are closely related, in so far as that in both the criminal and the neurotic mental development has been checked; in both adaptation to environment has been inadequately or wrongly solved, and in both, one or other of the instincts of sex, fear, self-assertion or escape have been thwarted or distorted in development in early years. The relationship is further exemplified in that in many instances both the criminal and the neurotic respond to the same kind of treatment.

In fact, therefore, crime, generally speaking, cannot be described merely as an anti-social act, and to-day the administration of Justice encompasses, through recent legislation, close enquiry in all cases of juvenile delinquency, into environment, child-history, and general upbringing, so that, instead of that blind, impartial justice—it is curious that Justice is always depicted as a lady with bandaged eyes—there shall be consideration of all the relevant factors disclosed by those enquiries, and, by the exercise of wide vision, a careful selection by the Bench of that kind of treatment likely to be most beneficial in the effort of the State to restore the offender to normality. That treatment may be by use of the Probation of Offenders Act, by use of a Home Office Approved School, or by use of the Borstal System, according to the age and circumstances of the individual.

The Borstal system

Borstal admits young men and women only if they are between the ages of 16 and 23, have proved criminal tendencies, and are mentally and physically capable of carrying out the training given in Borstal Detention. About 800 young people annually go into Borstal Institutions, and about the same number are discharged every year. The period of training inside the institutions is approximately two years, but varies between one institution and another as each houses a different type of lad and adjusts its regime to meet that fact. Incidentally, the careful system of grading which is carried out in the London collecting centre for receptions for Borstal treatment is the answer to the oft-repeated and incorrect suggestion that the bad traits in one lad are, by reason of his association in an institution with other lads, passed on by him to those less bad than himself. Borstal is built on the foundation fact that by proper grading and individual attention, the good will beat the bad.

Many useful lessons are learned by these lads while under training. They acquire the habit of industry; become accustomed, perhaps for the first time since leaving school, to a hard eight-hour day at labour; learn something of a trade; assimilate the team or community service spirit; and the elementary lessons of courtesy, cleanliness and obedience.

But Borstal Institutions are not an end in themselves. Training inside them must continue after release. There are lessons which a lad can only learn by experience in normal conditions outside, and foremost among these are the right use of money and thrift; the choice of companions; how to stand up to the hurly burly of the competitive labour market; how to approach an employer; how to withstand the loneliness of freedom as

against the communal life of an institution; and not much can be learned by a lad inside an institution of his proper attitude to the question of sex. It may be bitter experience for a lad to learn, as a cynic has said, that some modern girls, while they adore spinning wheels, prefer four and a spare, and that co-educationalists have not so far provided, for him, an answer to the problems arising from sex associations which have eventuated as much from lack of experience and normal contacts as from evil intent. It is, in fact, a truism that half of a lad's training and much of his difficulty will begin at the moment he leaves the institution for freedom.

The Borstal Association

These and other problems, as well as the need to supplement the official effort already made in the Institution, render guidance and care of each lad on discharge from the institution of paramount importance as part of the Borstal System, and the duty of arranging that care and assistance is in the hands of the Borstal Association, 131, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. That Association, through its staff in London, and through its Associates in the provinces, undertakes the statutory duty of the supervision of every Borstal lad. It administers the licence on which each lad is discharged, the terms of which are, roughly, that he shall obey instructions as to place of work and residence and shall lead a sober, honest and industrious life. It is the duty of the Association to endeavour to find suitable employment for every lad; to see that his needs on the material side are met, and to report any serious breach of the terms of his licence to the Prison Commissioners, who thereupon consider the question of his recall to a Borstal Institution for further training.

The part of the Voluntary Worker

It will be seen, therefore, that the lad's material needs are catered for through official and semi-official channels. But there is an important social side to after-care which must be provided if it is to be successful in its widest sense, and as in these times man is afloat, so 'tis said, amid the wreckage of his conventions, so the somewhat unconventional method of a personal approach to the Social Service and religious organisations in this country has been made during the last year or two, in an endeavour to secure, through their lay members, individual friends who will supplement the official supervision of the Association by providing those essential day-to-day contacts for each lad, to replace those available while he was inside the Institutions; contacts which will lead him away from the old and dangerous street corner and lead him instead to satisfactory spare-time pursuits and solid social associations. These contacts are one of the essentials for successful living which most of these lads have lacked in the past, and while not every lad will respond immediately to such influences, or evince to the casual onlooker any clearly defined change as a result of them, they will provide a lad with a sheet anchor in those times of crisis which so often occur at the unexpected moment when he gets adrift and out of sympathy with his surroundings and is unable to obtain sound advice from his own people, if indeed he is in touch with them at all.

There is no hard and fast rule-of-thumb method in the selection of friends for these lads. Some will respond to an elder-brotherly touch; others will respect and more readily look for guidance to an older man, while yet others will welcome contact only with young men of their own age, which as a general rule is between 18 and 23. The prospect of making the

first approach to this problem is one which may imbue some with fear of the difficulties, and objections on the ground of incompatibility of age or temperament must be carefully considered. Such difficulties ought not to be a deterrent to offering help. In my experience in talking to meetings all over the country, I have found that it has acted frequently as a spur to endeavour, because, despite the common cry of the decadence of church and social life, social service to-day is the instinct and inspiration of the many rather than, as it was thirty years ago, the privilege and prerogative of the few.

Some qualifications

What, then, are the necessary qualifications for this fraternal work? They are quite simple. The friend, whatever his age, must be normal in his approach to the lad; he should be careful not to attempt to hurry the approach either to the question of religious exercises, or membership of Toc H or Club. He should have a degree of common sense and humour, virtues which overcome every day most of our problems in life. He should be broad-minded, patient and tolerant, ready to discuss topical events, and ready to meet apparent set-backs and failures without despair. He should be prepared to spend at least an hour or two each week in association with the lad concerned, or in his interests, and to preserve a fine balance between hard-headedness and sentiment. It may be necessary to overlook on occasion, immediately after discharge, the celebration of return to freedom on the lad's part. Finally, the friend should keep in touch with the official Borstal Associate under whose supervision the lad has been placed and refer to him any question of financial help which may arise.

The Borstal Association has formed, during the last two years, Voluntary Com-

mittees in almost every important centre in England and Wales. These committees are composed of representatives of the leading social service and religious bodies, and function usually with the Borstal Associate for the area as Secretary for the purpose of liaison.

That members of Toc H are serving on those Committees, and have helped in this voluntary side of after-care already; that they have assisted in providing visitors to Borstal Institutions, and that they are succeeding in the important work which they thus have undertaken, are facts which are already known to Toc H generally all over the world, and which are acknowledged gratefully by the Borstal Authorities. There is, however, room for development, and if every Toc H Group and Branch throughout the country were to discuss this piece of social work, in the light of this article, ask for literature and information from their London Headquarters or from the Borstal Association, 131, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, and resolve to lend a hand when opportunities occur, in liaison with the Borstal Association and their experienced Associates, there would be a great impetus given to the provision of these contacts. A service would be rendered to the lads, to the State, and, I venture to think, to Toc H itself, in that the carrying out of the work would provide recreation and an experience through which men might learn again how to face their own problems in life and achieve happiness through service to their fellows.

This fraternal experiment, if successful in the smaller problem of Borstal, might usefully be extended in due course to encompass interest in other young delinquents in an organised way.

Overseas

I have written of This England. The Borstal method is being developed in our

far-flung Empire. This co-operative effort at after-care, modified to meet each country's characteristics as a part of the whole system, might be made of great value to those in charge of the penal administration of our Dominions and Colonies overseas.

To Toc H overseas, therefore, I would say, Toc H in England is blazing a trail, and I feel certain, is calling to you to watch and copy their example (if you are not already doing so) when time and circumstances permit.

Let Toc H Headquarters at Francis

Street, S.W.1, know of your help or desire to help, so that a centralised record of what is wanted and what is done may be maintained. If you do this, and if you do not let occasional failure be defeat but rather a challenge, if you put back into normal citizenship even one of these young lads, I feel that each member of Toc H who co-operates may find, in the words of Keats, that

*"Unnumber'd souls breathe out a still
applause,
proud to behold him in his country's eye."*

R. A. F.

PERSONALITY

This is the last of a series of three articles by the Hon. Commissioner for Toc H New South Wales, H. TASMAN LOVELL, who is Professor of Psychology in Sydney University. They originally formed an address to a conference of clergy and ministers.

III. Personality and the Soul

What is the relation of personality to the soul of man? The Church is concerned with the salvation of men, the cure of souls. If, however, the soul is quite distinct from personality, then it would seem futile to attempt to save souls by improving personality. And we cannot expect the Church then to concern itself with the hindrances to personality which have been mentioned. Just here it sometimes seems to me that the Church would wish to have it both ways: it seems to regard the soul as something quite distinct from the personality and yet to attempt the salvation of souls by appealing for an improvement in personality.

My own view, advanced with due humility, is that personality and the soul are continuous, and that, therefore, the perfecting of personality is a contribution to the salvation of souls.

To elaborate, I believe that God's universe is one and that God is in and with His universe, so that what we are and see

are His nature revealing itself especially through us and our personalities. In His wisdom He has not launched us ready-made, but has left us responsible for our own perfection. The degree of acceptance by us of that responsibility is the measure of our stature. To some, at the close, it can then be said: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." We cannot have it both ways; either God, and not we, must accept the responsibility for us, in which case we have no significance, no dignity, no intrinsic value of our own; or *we* must accept the responsibility, in which case our worth is proportional to the degree of responsibility we accept. Some accept none; others accept more than a human being can bear.

If the universe is one and God is of His universe, then gradually to come to know the universe, both animate and inanimate, is progressively to get to know God and thereby to strengthen, feed, and qualify

our own personalities. One who feels himself moved by all aspects of the universe is in continual touch with the Creator, and worship becomes for him a constant attitude, so that knowledge becomes an aid to religion and a destroyer of evil. For evil is not something *sui generis* and alien to an intelligible universe. Indeed, it is just in an intelligible universe that defective human beings with limited knowledge of the causes of events would find evil. That which frustrates and is not understood is called evil. If it were understood, it could be controlled and prevented from frustrating and hurting. Either God made an unintelligible universe or an intelligible one. I cannot imagine God creating an unintelligible universe. If, however, the universe is intelligible, it is comprehensible: it can be progressively understood if we apply our intelligence to the search for the truth about it. Indeed, this is what has been happening. Only intelligence can discover the order and beauty of the Kosmos. Only intelligence can discover the laws of its action, by revealing the causes of events. It is the sacred duty of intelligent men to search for the truth first about Nature and man and man's mind, and then even about the mystic heart of the universe, and as they seek so they tend to find. Indeed, the story of the talents indicates the obligation man is under to use his intellect. The search after truth is a sacred duty, and science a great moral fact.

If the universe is intelligible, complete knowledge of cause would give complete control of events. With complete control, all evil consequences could be banished. Where a woman's well-loved child falls ill and dies, control of the cause would have prevented the evil. Such control of causes has, indeed, gone so far already that many

children have not died who would certainly have died in a previous generation. Typhoid, diphtheria, gastro-enteritis, smallpox, have been almost completely conquered through procedures issuing from knowledge of causes. Yet the woman who loses her child may blame God for allowing the evil visitation to come upon her. It seems, however, that we shall rise superior to evil of this kind, eradicate it only in that degree in which we know and comprehend: the compulsion is on us to try to understand.

Despite the problem of evil, I believe that every day personality is continuous with the soul; that the fate of the soul cannot be assured if personality is neglected.

Further, I believe that personality leads on to the salvation of the soul when it has embodied within it both love and truth, both the tender quality of love and the stern quality of truth, which is justice. If the kingdom of righteousness is the reign of justice and love, then not only does the truth prevail in it but also love com-forteth in it as well.

The attempt to establish a proper social order is no more and no less than the attempt to introduce love into the relations among men and to cause the truth to prevail in their minds. This, of course, is a task of incredible complexity and difficulty, and we shall have often to hurt in the interest of truth and justice where most we would wish to heal in the interests of love.

The Church's task is to influence the social order that the kingdom of righteousness becomes established here and now in the minds and hearts of living men. Their fate hereafter will then be assured and perhaps can look after itself.

H. T. L.

* * * *

It is estimated that Football Pools are responsible for a total of 30,000,000 letters a week through the post. The population of Great Britain is 42,000,000.

THE FAMILY CHRONICLE

From the Northern Area

... "You've seen the world,
The beauty and the wonder and the power,
The shapes of things, their colours, lights,
and shades,
Changes, surprises—and God made it all!
For what?"

MANY a man in essaying an answer to that has thrown in his hand feeling himself "A foiled circuitous wanderer," not unlike the nigger who didn't know whether he was coming or going or running round in rings. You high-brow fellows can take the Matthew Arnold quotation, you low-brow wallahs just run along with the nigger. All others will surely be Toc H about it, and not get beetle-browed with anger at me.

By the way, this is not the kick-off in, or of, a philosophical disquisition, it is, or hopes to be, a news dispatch from the North (Toc H in the Northern Area). As a matter of fact, it is much farther South than is Forres and Wick, and the whole of Scotland, but that is the name we have been given. The geography, industry, etc., of the Area was—as said the hurried American of the Cloisters of Wells Cathedral—"spoken of" a year ago. It is true (and truth is unchangeable) that men are the most vital and interesting subjects to write about or to meet. What kind of men are we up here? What are we doing, and why? Greathead Harper wrote a book about Evolution (when, where, and why he did so, and who he is, I have not yet found out). He forgot to deal with his title, but described Northmen in these words:

"The mental constitution of the people of these counties is involved in a process of reasoning, of which, utilitarianism is the chief source. Their minds are capacious; their imagination is vigorous, and their feeling is very strong. They are disinclined to hold themselves in a state of readiness to receive new impressions; and in their endeavour to adjust themselves to such changing circumstances as criticism has helped to create, they reveal a tendency to regard their individual judgment as an ultimate source of authority. Their sense of rectitude operates in terms of loyalty to their leaders, and their general senti-

ments resolve themselves into a passionate attachment to local associations, and the depth of their sympathy is such as helps them to overcome their natural tendency to clannishness. Indeed, their appreciation of decision of character is so genuine as to impel them to affiliate themselves with such persons as are of a kindred disposition regardless of dissimilarities in other respects. It seems, moreover, that there is in these men a force whose operation is conducive to the creation of magnificent ideals, while there is another power which enables them to deal with such ideals with magisterial decisiveness."

Observation, and an increasing measure of intimacy, has convinced the writer of this dispatch that Harper, whoever he was, knew what he was saying, and if you will do him the favour of reading and re-reading his analysis of Northmen you will be on the way to understanding what manner of men they are. I believe an Area dispatch should be concerned with what Toc H is doing, which must mean what men in Toc H are doing. What the Northmen at this time are doing is that they are exercising "their mental constitution in a process of reasoning." In other words, they are thinking. Now do not try to tell me that thinking is not doing. If you do, we will never get to bed, or anywhere worth while. Thinking is an important doing, for without thought few things are attempted, much less accomplished. Toc H in the North is convinced that thinking is good exercise and sound work, in fact, most of us up here would subscribe to the view I once heard expressed by a cowman to a crowd of mates who were all at sixes and sevens, dashing here and there, and accomplishing nix, when he said, "Hey, you rannies, quit yez yappin' and yez rushin' and start thinkin'; it will pay yez, there's darn little competition!" And if you object to cowboys, come then, I pray you, with me, away to the sun-kissed hills and the lily-decked valleys of Galilee and hear One of surpassing wisdom say to his beloved companions, "As a man thinketh so he is." As Toc H thinketh, so it is, for the thoughts of the just now are the actions of now.

Toc H in the North has reached this stage in its thinking, that it is not prepared to confuse the organisation which is necessary to Toc H with Toc H itself. We are beginning to understand that the uniform is not the soldier, and the harness is not the horse, and to some extent we are preparing to, and in some ways have actually, shed some of the cumbersome action-restraining local by-laws, standing orders, and the rigmarole and humbug of red-tape. For instance, our Area Executive has seen it wise to make simpler in a degree the acceptance of men for membership in that each District has been given the power, hitherto held by an Area Elections Committee, of electing members, believing that dealing with known men is more real than conning over names on paper. Some District Committees have ceased to split themselves up into odds and ends of pettifogging teams, and have begun to see clearly that their job is not to sit as puppet executives governing and bossing long-suffering and sometimes withering units, but that they are a specially selected team of men who work together for the encouragement of existing units—a far different proposition to bossing—and more particularly the enthusiastic (which does not mean foolish) extension of the spirit of Toc H, and consequent formation of new centres (Branches and Groups if you like). It has been borne in upon us by this process of thinking that we were in danger of becoming a somewhat isolated crowd of men, and in danger of losing sight of the real job of Toc H, which was leading some of us to expect Toc H to do things which upon consideration are not at all the work of Toc H. Why does not Toc H do this about that, or that about this? Why doesn't it take a definite stand on this question, and raise a united kick about that proposal? These are some of the queries that came our way; and we were getting a trifle weary of hearing bruited abroad that high falutin' and somewhat vague spray of words—the Toc H challenge. Toc H in the North is coming to understand that as you do not expect a motor car to cook your dinner, and do not expect the old bus to sprout out in blossom, or to be an adequate substitute

for a submarine; yet you have a reasonable right to expect it to do its job—to take you there and bring you back.

So we are becoming definite in our thought that the job of Toc H is not to manage the politics of the country, or to run the industrial side of the Empire, or even to take charge of the Churches; its job is to get hold of men, and by friendship, fellowship and faith in man and God, to change chaps until through them these other things are permeated with the right spirit. Therefore we think and hold that Toc H is a catching and training ground for men rather than a political and industrial, or even Church partisan, force.

In agricultural language we speak of ploughing, sowing and reaping as though these separate activities were the whole necessary process, forgetting that before a plough can be put to the ground the ground has to be cleared, trees uprooted, rocks removed, a drainage system laid in, and general preparation for husbandry to take place.

We have re-discovered in our trainings and studies and thinking the truth of Peter Monie's words, that "Toc H is a Christianising Organisation," or, in the words of the present writer, Toc H is a school for sinners, and not a museum for saints!

If the world had understood, accepted and embodied Christian faith, then the world would be the Kingdom of God, but it has not. Much preparation, ground-clearing and prejudice-removing is needed before the work of the Gospel can be really begun. This is a pioneering job, a preparation for the Gospel, and we are glad to see that in the North we are becoming wide-awake to our real task, and are happy to say that we are benefiting by becoming less entangled with unnecessary regulations in order to release our main enthusiasm for the task of gaining and, under God, changing men, for (to alter the metaphor) the temple of God must be built with hewn stones, and "many stones await their fashioning."

Thinking has not been our sole preoccupation. We are happy and gay in the North; even in industry we do not like the phrase "Depressed Area." In Toc H we are far from being depressed. If you have imagined

so, come along and hear a crowd of Tyne-siders sing "Blaydon Races" and "Weel may the keel rar." And if you doubt my word ask 'Sawbones' if the North has forgotten how to sing. Thus we think and so we sing.

We have our Training Week-ends, we have our reading circles; the usual bunch of social service jobs carried on, such as work in hospitals, village libraries, the deaf and dumb, acting in conjunction with the Oil Companies' Benevolent Scheme, serving on Borstal Committees, etc. Of Guest-nights we have had not a few. Sometimes it is one of our local selves who is the speaker, but we gladly and gratefully make mention of the visits of Hubert Secretan, Herbert Leggate, 'Sawbones' (Padre Sawbridge), not forgetting the occasional seafarer who blows in and stays, possibly, at the Mark for a while, and again those naval men who have to do with the building of battle-ships, such as George Potter. Tubby passed through Newcastle, and as he passed he stopped. It was unlucky for the writer. Tubby has a habit of raking people out of bed! I expect he acts upon the assumption that the staff of Toc H must neither slumber or sleep! During the year we have for good or ill, through the medium of our Area Padre, taken over All Saints Church, and hope to make its attached buildings a centre of Toc H activities on Quayside, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the idea being that the assistant curate shall run a not very large Parish, while Allan Bostock, the Area Padre, should still function as Area Padre.

The illness (now a thing of the past) of the Area Secretary gave us the company of John Burnett, and also for a period the cheering presence of Michael Furniss. Hard upon their heels came two Canadians—'Tammy,' of Winnipeg, and Bill Talbot, of Vancouver. We were glad to have them and hope that they derived no ill results from their sojourn in what 'Tammy' called "this ancient and interesting North." Changes in the office staff are now accomplished, and Miss Calver, hitherto of South Wales Area Office, looks after things in her calm and capable way. This is mentioned so that units in the North may understand that lots of the routine work is not dealt with by the Area Secretary, which

means, in effect, that things *are* attended to! This seems to be the sensible way. The Area Secretary conceives it to be his job to be a teacher and leader of the movement as existing, and a pioneer and explorer for the movement in its need of extension.

The old lady said she liked the vicar better than the curate because the vicar said "finally," and finished, but the curate said "lastly," and, my word, he did last! So finally, my dear brethren, we are happy to say that Toc H, as an organisation, is making fresh contacts with other organisations within the Area. For instance, we are busy, in conjunction with Rotary and the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, working towards a Leprosy Exhibition during May in Newcastle. We are also linking up with various animal welfare societies in connection with an Animal Welfare Week, and lots of the units are sending representatives to a Conference of Organisations concerned with the welfare of children, *i.e.* The Children's Minimum Movement.

As a skilful writer would say, you have observed that no mention of an individual unit has been made in this dispatch. This refraining has been deliberate, for to single some out would, perhaps, be unfair to others, for all are doing their best. We welcome into the Fellowship a resurrected *Sunderland*. As prophesied last year, Sunderland has lost the English Cup, but they are going to get their Rushlight. *Blyth*, which shortly loses Vincent-Daviss, their Padre, who takes on a semi-staff job, is also applying for a Rushlight. "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard"—the 1st Royal Scots—have been transferred to Jerusalem, which seems to be quite appropriate! They took their Rushlight with them; the only Regimental Rushlight in the world. So a Toc H symbol will probably enter where Roman eagles were debarred! Under the Cleveland hills there lies the beautiful little village of *Skelton*, where a valiant few have all too long sought and sought to build Toc H. Soon, very soon, some happy man will knock at the door of their home telling them that Toc H in all the world sends them Greeting and this Light.

J. B.

Toc H Soccer ; Easter Tour in Belgium

After a lapse of two years, the Toc H Soccer Team renewed acquaintance with Belgian football.

The Toc H team made Ypres their headquarters and arrangements were made to play the second team of Bruges on Easter Saturday and Poperinghe on Easter Monday, the trip to both places being made by motor coach. Friday was devoted to an examination of Ypres, and early on Saturday morning we travelled to the old town of Bruges where we found by the posters that the Toc H team had been promoted to the international standard and that we were playing the Studax second team reinforced by members of the first. In the afternoon we played our game and luckily survived a goalless first half, when we played against a strong wind and very long grass. With the wind in our favour during the second half Studax were overwhelmed, and the four goals Toc H scored in no way flattered our superiority.

We were presented with a charming banner embroidered with details of our game and entertained to an "English" spread of buttered currant bread, tea, champagne and beer. In no way could the spirit of our reception by the Belgians have been bettered and we left Bruges at midnight rich in the feeling of fellowship.

On Sunday we answered an S.O.S. by telephone from an English team in Brussels, and lent them some of our players for an impor-

tant game they had to play that day. Belgium, incidentally, seemed full of English teams during the holiday.

On Monday we tackled Poperinghe. With our last victory there in mind, "Pop" had spared no effort to make their team as strong as possible and four outsiders had been imported. A very sporting game ended in a draw, but nothing could conceal the fact that Poperinghe were the better team. Whether this would be true in normal circumstances is doubtful, as Belgian *pavé* and inadequate rest played a strong game against our people.

At the entertainment which followed, we were presented with the cup despite our protest that we had failed to win, but Poperinghe would take no denial. After we had deposited our presentation bouquet of flowers on the "Pop" War Memorial, and listened to Gilbert Williams' simple words, we repaired to the "local" and played our football opponents at darts. This also ended in a draw, and so back to England.

From correspondence since received, the Toc H team did not fail in any way to maintain the high reputation this country still commands in Belgium, at least among the "pedestrian" Belgians, and the appreciation and friendship accorded to them was very encouraging to the writer, whose first visit it was to Belgium for exactly twenty years to the day. It proved a very real Pilgrimage of friendship and remembrance. J. J. M.

From the Southern Area

In reporting on the Southern Area it may be well to put last things first. We will commence, therefore, with the Area Executive which has just spent a week-end together. This new Executive decided that its first job was to get to know each other, and so arranged to meet—sleep—eat and work together at Mark V. Southampton. It would be difficult to find a more suitable venue for such a purpose. The spacious well-laid-out and well-tended (?) grounds and gardens of Mark V together with dry, sunny weather, were ideal. The week-end programme was interesting and

diverse. After the formal part of the proceedings (reports of sub-committees etc.) reports were invited from elected members on their respective Districts. These reports enabled the Executive to begin to know and understand Toc H in the Area and to develop an Area mind. So that there should be no fear of mental indigestion, the latter part of the evening was spent in listening to the words of a long-passed writer at a theatre, and all concerned enjoyed *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Deliberations were resumed on Sunday morning after devotions in the Chapel

of Mark V., when a good discussion followed a talk by one of the younger members on "The Functions of an Area Executive." Later the Commissioner for the Services in the Southern Counties, Colonel Rac, told us about his work to extend Toc H in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

The Chairman summed up the work of the week-end, and sent us away feeling that we had made great progress in real understanding of each other and our work as a Team. There are now nine Districts in the Area, including the recently formed New Forest District composed of three Groups. Perhaps the outstanding matters in the past year are the improvements in the District Team Meetings and the "adoption" of communities in Distressed Areas. From reports at the Area Executive Meeting it is obvious that District Teams are very alive to their responsibilities, and are by no means content just to keep things going, but are thinking and planning ahead. Most Teams work in the same way so far as their monthly meetings are concerned. These Meetings are divided into three parts—business, grub and discussion—the first two items varying in order of precedence.

East Dorset put grub first and start their Meetings with a sit-down meal. Some other Districts follow suit but do not sit down. All arrange a discussion, and this either deals with what may be described as 'a major issue arising out of a mass of detail,' or set training on Toc H education. The influence of the District Team is making itself felt more and more in the Units to the advantage of all concerned. An incorrect inference might be drawn were it suggested that this is particularly the case with the Aldershot District, but the fact remains that three Groups were promoted to Branch Status last year and *Fleet*, *Alton* and *Farnham* received their Lamps in December, whilst *Hartley Wintney* sponsored the new Group at *Odiham*.

Many of the Districts have set up sub-teams, the leaders of each being the District Officers concerned. This bringing together of pilots, treasurers and jobmasters to discuss their respective offices has proved of benefit to the officers themselves, to their Units and to the District Teams.

An interesting outcome of a Bursar's Team of Unit Treasurers is the much greater efficiency shown in handling unit finances. In one case this was brought about by the acceptance of one such team of the proposal to pay Area contributions in monthly instalments. These instalments vary from 3/6 to 13/4 a month, and are all based on the comprehensive self-assessment plan adopted by units concerned. The obvious outcome of this plan is to increase the aggregate of Area Contribution by this District from £8 at this time last year to £26 for the same period of this year. This is splendid, but what is even more important is the far reaching effect of the plan. Treasurers are approaching their jobs as educationalists—endeavouring to lead men to think in terms of the right use of money in life. Where a treasurer is successful in getting this over he has very little trouble in gleaning from his members, with the result that he can pay his way in Toc H, and does not need to burden members with heart-rending appeals to cough up. This helps a Unit to be more efficient and, strangely enough perhaps, deepens fellowship.

Training Week-ends have been held in some of the Districts, and a particular high spot was at such a week-end for Portsmouth. Some 40 men with three members of the staff met in "one of the wooden walls of England," H.M.S. *Foudroyant*, a relic of the days of Nelson, now anchored next *Implacable*—a similar but larger ship, at the head of Portsmouth Harbour. The men were divided into five study groups, each of which—for reasons which seemed obvious—were named after Admirals. For reasons which also seemed obvious, proper names were used in four cases, but the fifth group was christened "the Admiral's Pop-eye." The theme for the week-end was the decision of the Central Council at its extraordinary meeting in January last. The three Staff men present were interested to know what conception members had about their jobs, so at one of the sessions the question was asked "What have you expected from Staff in the past, and what do you expect now?" It is regrettable to report that this question was not given the serious consideration it deserved. Three of

the study groups gave fit and proper answers, obviously after mature consideration. The fourth group complained that Area Staff had not shown the respect that is due from employee to employer, whilst the Admiral's Pop-eye's answer was "What have you expected from Staff in the past—miracles, and what do you expect now—five large loaves from three poor fish!"

Mention has already been made of three new Branches. *Sandown-Shanklin Group* in the Isle of Wight was also promoted last year and received its Lamp in December. It is worthy of note that since receiving promotion the Branch is fostering a new Unit at Shanklin.

There has been considerable development during the past year, and in addition to the new units mentioned Groups have been recognised at *Ventnor, Shirley, Bitterne, Beenham & Padiworth, Parkstone* and *Cranborne*. Further extension is under weigh, and quite soon there should be Groups at Eastleigh, Red-

bridge (Southampton), and Blandford. The period under review is marked again by Staff changes. Padre Chambers concluded his term as Area Padre in December and is now Rector of Nursling (Southampton). His place has been taken by Kenneth Bloxham who comes to us from the South-Western Area. Kenneth made his bow to the Area at the Area Festival held in Southampton at the end of February. The Festival was an ambitious affair, and included the Mime *At the Sign of the Star*. The speaker at the Festival Service was Padre Michael Coleman, and at the Guest-night Jim Burford. These two addresses will be long remembered by those who heard them. The Mime was performed by a cast of 150, which included local male voice choirs, folk dancers, and members of the League of Health and Beauty. Taking it byc and large the roots of Toc H are steadily growing deeper in the Southern Area, and the result should be seen in a tree becoming more and more splendid as it grows.

P. K.

Queen Mary's Hospital and Mark XX

IN the JOURNAL for June, 1937, the Southampton Hospital was described in an article by Dr. A. W. Moore, of the Ministry of Pensions. A footnote explained that it was hoped a man would be found to combine the work of Church of England Chaplain to the Hospital with that of Padre in Mark XX, Upper Richmond Road. The Rev. L. Vincent-Daviss has accepted the appointment for two years from September 1st, 1938.

He is no stranger to Toc H, and Knutsford was partly responsible for his "education."

That it has been possible for us to make this appointment is entirely due to Lady Greig and a few of her friends. They have guaranteed the necessary salary which will give Mark XX its own Padre for the first time in its life. For their interest and generosity we are very grateful.

F. E. F.

Visiting

Members who wish while on holiday to attend Toc H meetings at the place or places they are visiting often find some difficulty in discovering the meeting-place and day and time of meeting of the local unit. The best plan is (a) to discover before going away whether there is a unit in the place you are going to (the list printed in the Toc H Diary will tell you this, or the later list published in the Annual Report in April), and (b) to write, also beforehand, to the Hon. District Secretary or Area Secretary of the District or

Area concerned (whose name and address will be found in the same two places) asking for these particulars. This involves a little thought and effort beforehand, but it is well worth taking the trouble and will avoid much waste of time and consequent irritation later.

* * * *

Toc H Glasgow is very glad to see members visiting the Empire Exhibition, but *cannot possibly arrange lodgings for them*. They should apply to the Information Bureau, St. Enoch's Square, Glasgow.

THE ELDER BRETHREN

BIRDSALL.—On April 23, RICHARD JOHN BIRDSALL, Jobmaster of Malton Branch. Elected 10.7.35.

BRYANT.—On April 12, TOM BRYANT, a member of West Croydon Branch. Elected 26.5.30.

CARR-ROSS.—On February 25, A. J. CARR-ROSS, a member of Boscombe Group. Elected 23.9.34.

COKER.—On May 11, HENRY COKER, aged 49, a member of Droitwich Group. Elected 8.5.36.

DEVONSHIRE, THE DUKE OF.—On May 31, VICTOR CHRISTIAN WILLIAM CAVENDISH, 9th DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, aged 69 years. A President of Toc H by Royal Charter, 1922.

GILCHRIST.—On April 21, WILLIAM KITCHIN GILCHRIST, a foundation member of Dalton-in-Furness Branch. Elected 20.8.30.

GIMSON.—On May 7 in a flying accident at Sealand, Chester, ERROL GIMSON, a member of Christchurch North Branch, New Zealand.

GODDING.—On November 19, 1937, HARRY GODDING, a member of Aberdare Branch. Elected 30.3.31.

HAYNES.—In March, HAROLD ARTHUR HAYNES, aged 37, a member of Winton

Branch. Elected Sept. 1926.

LANG.—On May 18, after an operation in Munich, ANTON LANG, aged 63, the *Christus* player in the Oberammergau Passion Play, a friend of Toc H since 1922.

NICKLIN.—On April 24, W. H. NICKLIN, a foundation member of Barnet Branch. Elected 1.7.20.

POUND.—On May 7, Captain H. J. POUND, Hon. District Secretary of Isle of Wight District. Elected 22.7.33.

PREECE.—On April 3, VINCENT ALBERT PREECE, a member of Wellington (Salop) Group. Elected 16.11.35.

TALBOT HOBBS.—On April 21, suddenly at sea, Lieut.-General Sir JOSEPH JOHN TALBOT HOBBS, aged 74, President of Toc H Western Australia, and a Vice-President of Toc H.

TREBY.—On May 6, ROBERT BURNS TREBY, Chairman of Southend Branch. Elected 2.10.33.

TURNER.—On April 21, S. P. TURNER, a member of Leicester Branch. Elected 1.7.36.

WILKES.—On April 11, JOSEPH JOB WILKES, a member of Willenhall Branch. Elected 24.7.33.

The Duke of Devonshire : A Charter President of Toc H

IT was in 1911 that the Duke of Devonshire, with others, founded a venture which bore his family name—the Cavendish Club. It was something new, a West-end club which was specially concerned with social service and acknowledged its Christian aim by having a Chapel and a resident Chaplain (Dick Sheppard). In 1913 an offshoot, the Cavendish Association, which was to carry the same idea of service through the public schools and universities, was founded : in 1921 the Cavendish Association was amalgamated with a younger and more vigorous body—Toc H. This brought the Duke of Devonshire into first touch with us. In 1922, Tubby, "a dishevelled clergyman on a motor-bicycle," invaded the Pump Room at Bath with the Petition of Toc H to the Privy Coun-

cil for a Royal Charter and secured then and there the Duke of Devonshire's signature : history relates that they drank the health of Toc H together in Bath waters. Thus did the Duke become, with the Archbishop of Canterbury (Randall Davidson) and Lord Plumer—both of whom had known Talbot House since the beginning—a Charter President of Toc H. From that time forward he watched its progress and supported it with wise advice and generous gifts. The Duchess of Devonshire wrote to Headquarters after his death : "There is no institution whose welfare he had more at heart; all who worked for it were his friends."

His public appearances in Toc H were infrequent : a very busy life and, latterly, ill-health, prevented him. But a few of the

earliest members know, for instance, how unobtrusively he slipped into a meeting at the old Mark I one night, where Bishop Gore was speaking. And the charabanc party of members which toured England a few years later will not forget how charmingly he and the Duchess entertained them at Chatsworth. His last act on our behalf was to open the

new Mark at Derby with a delightful speech. Neither position nor great possessions—he had both—was the most important fact about him, but Christian character. As Tubby said in his memorial address in All Hallows: “Humble men who were themselves sincere found in the Duke a man of their own nature.”

Sir Talbot Hobbs: President of Toc H W. Australia, and a Vice-President of Toc H

WHEN Sir Talbot Hobbs died on board the *Orama* on April 21, Western Australia lost not only one of its best architects but one of its finest citizens, and Toc H a most trusted and devoted leader. He had started out, on this last voyage, for Europe in order to be present at the unveiling by the King of the Australian War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux on July 1. His presence there would have been natural, for he had commanded the Artillery of the 1st Australian Division during the Battles of the Somme, as he had previously done in Gallipoli. In peace, as in war, he was a true leader of men. Tubby, writing in *The Times* of April 27, says: “Like Lord Roberts, he was lightly built and small; but the Australian Forces, superlatively gifted in physique, regarded him with confidence, almost with reverence. They knew his worth; and were not unaware that in him there resided natively the imperturbable spirit of a man who rather likes

having the odds against him; he humbly schooled himself for high command. Never a rich man, he had known life's struggles; and turned aside from the severe temptation of concentrating on his own career in order to prepare himself to play, should the storm break, whatever part might be assigned to him. Thus, when the soul of Anzac reached its birth, this man, who as a child had lived at Hampton and treated the old Maze as a strategic problem for assault, came to supreme command of the most fearless and liberty-loving army in the world. In 1925 Sir William Campion, then Governor of Western Australia, effected his conversion to Toc H, which then began with six men in the West—one of these was Sir Talbot Hobbs. The whole West will feel the loss of him, not only in Toc H, nor in the Scouts—to both of which he was president—but in the homes of Diggers now grown grey, who trusted him; he merited their trust.”

W. G. Nicklin: New Barnet Branch

On Low Sunday, when “Nick” lay dying, Tubby wrote this note: “This afternoon I heard that ‘Nick’ was quietly approaching the narrow stream which all mankind must cross. It has no bridge; and while this fact dismays us, it should perhaps rather confirm our courage and teach us to regard it as more shallow than it would seem when viewed from some way off. Were it a torrent which could sweep away in its voracious clutch our oldest friends, we should indeed do well to be alarmed; but water can be dark without depth when it lies quiet in a grassy channel and under evening skies, where warmth and light linger almost until the morning comes.

“So far my mind is trying to find ways of

comfort for the time which is approaching when one more of our few Foundation Members completes his obedience to the call which lately came to him. His name and style is W. H. Nicklin, piano tuner, 10, Station Terrace, New Barnet, the home he left in early middle-age to join his regiment in the Salient. During his duties and his sufferings there, he came in touch one day with Talbot House, entered its doors, commented on its garden, and soon began to tune its pianos. We had three then; one of them had been bought, the other two were come by unexpectedly. Nicklin did the tuning, which was sorely needed, with an unerring hand, delighted to discover that he could contribute

without notoriety to an essential need of the Old House. He was an apple-checked, raven-haired, extremely healthy and most smiling soldier, who held his own in any conversation by listening with inexhaustible patience, which was mistaken by the eloquent for silent sagacity. Men most of all desire to find a listener who will not interrupt their flow of speech except with short appreciative sayings when they get out of breath. I should be wrong to represent my friend as pursuing his policy of silence on all occasions. He would draw men on, and argue now and then in several sentences, and sometimes would complete a paragraph. More often he would check himself and smile, and look straight at you, just as if to say 'I am ready for your next. Don't spare me.'

"It was not to men only that he listened. I am not sure we did not meet for the first time in the old Upper Room, and, as friendship grew, I often knelt with him. He had an art of meditation. I do not think he would have used that term; but there it stood, like peace itself set up and fortified against undue disturbance by misfortune. All this was well; for Nick had much misfortune. He came back from the war to a sad home, and troubles never ceased to beat against him. They never overthrew his cheerfulness, which seldom mounted to hilarity, and scarcely ever sank into depression.

"In 1919 he received a postcard to call upon my sister, then on myself, when Pettifer and I and Shiner and Frank Wilkins and George Spragg began the flat at 38, Red Lion Square. Nicklin came there, and we remain to-day remembering that we thought our red-faced friend must be a farmer, until he produced his tuning key once more. By this time Nick had found a cause to live for. This was Toc H in its full implication, length, depth and height; he would accept neither dilution nor diminution. To him it was the way of life for men.

"Nicklin had no athletic inclination, except by proxy. He supported games, because he knew that games are happy things which keep men clean and blend them in a cause. But stay a moment. I had forgotten to mention an amusing incident; and since obituary notes need such relief, allow me to record that since we could not yet afford a groundsman for the hired ground at Barnet, Nicklin took the whole job on himself, and for two years without a break or murmur he proceeded morning and night, before and after work, to dig and delve and drain and play the groundsman. This was just nothing from his point of view. He went a deep red when it was mentioned, and passed it off as if of no account.

"Meanwhile, he found some live men in New Barnet and brought in one or two, then three or four, and shepherded and drilled and tuned and taught them until they found it simplest to surrender neck and crop. Nor was his code a compromise with comfort; for twice a year he woke them in the morning with stones thrown at their windows at 5 a.m. and told them to dress and come and catch the earliest train in order to be present at All Hallows. He brought up four, and then he brought up eight; and then the last few years he brought up twenty, and others came through this, representative of units on the outskirts of North London, which have grown up and trace their lineage to certain of his converts—Nicklin's men. Members who were almost in their prams when he came home from Flanders and are now married leaders in units and in Districts, inherit directly or indirectly his lonely pioneering. One of these men, a Marksman in old days, took me to Barnet Cottage Hospital to see him a fortnight back, and told me when we left that no one could replace 'old Bill' among them; but that I could be certain of one thing, which was that they would not let down his team."

T.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

MULTUM IN PARVO

☛ All members from overseas visiting the Old Country are invited to attend the OVERSEAS GUEST-NIGHT to be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 7 (not 14, as originally proposed) at Mark VII, 15, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (near Warren Street and Great Portland Street Stations). Tubby will speak. Oversea members who wish to attend are asked to notify Cyril Pearson at the Overseas Office, 42, Trinity Square, E.C.3, mentioning if they will be in time for supper at seven o'clock.

☛ The Central Executive is arranging for representative members of Area Executives, home and overseas, to attend the CENTRAL CONFERENCE at Digswell Park, Herts., during the week-end, July 15/18.

☛ Members will be glad to hear that the Registrar ("Mus") has now returned to duty, but he will have to go quietly for the present.

☛ ARTHUR HOWARD, Area Padre in Scotland, has accepted a call from Windsor Place Church, Cardiff. He has been with us for five years in the North-Western, Lakeland, Irish and Scottish Areas. His place on the Staff will not be easy to fill.

☛ JIM BURFORD, Northern Area Secretary, is also undertaking the duties of Mark Pilot for Mark XVIII, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

☛ THE BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL OF TOC H will be held this year in London on December 8, 10 and 11. THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT will be observed on December 11 and 12.

☛ THE CEYLON RE-UNION LUNCH will take place at The Royal Empire Society, London, on Wednesday, June 29. Names, please, to Alec Gammon, Brotherton House, Leeds, 6.

☛ Members are reminded that BUILDERS' annual or quarterly subscriptions can be of any amount from 2/6d. upwards, and that, while only those who subscribe £1 or more annually receive the Toc H Journal (unless they express a wish to the contrary), all enrolled Toc H Builders now receive a QUARTERLY NEWS SHEET which helps them to keep in touch with Toc H.

☛ The following Groups are congratulated on their promotion to Branch status: *Eltham*, *Elmstead* and *Shirley* (Southern London Area), *Rosebank* and *Witbank* (S. Africa).

☛ New Groups have been recognised at *Cranbourne* (Southern Area), *New Orchard* and *Fort Rouge* (Winnipeg), and *Camberwell* (Victoria, Australia).

☛ Copies of the Abridged Edition of the ANNUAL REPORT, 1938, are available at Headquarters without charge.

The Staff of the Toc H League of Women Helpers

For purposes of L.W.H. administration, the British Isles have been divided into six regions, each with a whole-time member of the Staff in charge.

Miss MARJORIE THOMAS is in the North-Eastern Region which consists of the Yorkshire and Northern Areas and Scotland; Miss AUDREY PETHERBRIDGE in the North Western Region (North Western Area and Ireland); Miss MARJORIE PHILLIPS in the West Midlands Region (the Western and West Midlands Areas and South Wales); Miss KATHLEEN LAWLEY in the Eastern Region (East Anglia and East Midlands Areas and Lincolnshire); Miss PHYLLIS WOLFE in London and Home Counties Region, the latter including Hertfordshire and the Oxford and Thames Valley Area. Miss GERTRUDE BOLTON is in charge of

the Southern Region, consisting of the South Eastern, South and South Western Areas; she is concentrating for the present on the South Western Area. The L.W.H. have also one mobile member of Staff, Miss FREDA BROOKS, who is available for visiting the various Areas.

Miss ELSIE POTTER is the L.W.H. whole-timer in Southern Africa. Miss HELEN BENBOW is in New Zealand at the present and hopes to visit Australia in 1939. Mrs. EDWARDS, an honorary member of the Staff, has been visiting the L.W.H. in New Zealand and is returning *via* Canada.

L.W.H. Headquarters (Acting General Secretary: Miss BETTY HILDESLEY) will be moving towards the end of June to 42, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.3.

THE OPEN HUSTINGS

Liberty and Discipline

SIR,

In their attempt to uphold personal liberty and to define discipline the Central Executive of Toc H have failed to make one very important point. They talk about personal service. "Toc H stands for personal service." But this is an ambiguous ideal. Personal service to what end? In what cause? The formula for initiation into membership of Toc H asks "What is service?" and the reply says, "The rent we pay for our room on earth." This personal service, then, is presumably personal service to God, since we believe it is His earth. Our first responsibility is to serve His purpose.

When pondered in the light of this unquestionable truth, national or any other service falls more surely into perspective. One can "face the issue and come to a deliberate decision" more clearly, though it may not necessarily be easier to follow.

Self-discipline is not so much "a free gift from a free man" as our inevitable duty to God in return for His gift of free will.

Yours sincerely,

Cambridge.

JANE WRAITH.

The 'Family' of Toc H

DEAR EDITOR,

As a Member of Toc H who has received a challenge on his own doorstep, I would endeavour to reply to the correspondent who complained, via the April JOURNAL, of our mis-use of the word 'Family.'

We are more than a brotherhood, for every Toc H meeting is, or should be, a circle with a 'home' spirit where we come with our problems and our views (and we are not all 'like-minded') to try to find, in the common light of our Toc H training, a right solution of these.

Your correspondent refers to a ladies' Toc H as being in the position of a maid who has a few privileges. The League of Women Helpers (to give them their official but

unattractive title) is much more than this. To quote: "The women's work is both parallel with and complementary to that of Toc H, and is often done in co-operation with them." May I add, "and well done, too"?

We perform joint jobs of service, and often have joint meetings. We also have corporate home-going prayers to a Father who is always accessible and always understanding.

We are a Family after all.

Yours truly,

ARCHIE W. STRONG.

Wargrave-on-Thames.

The Journal

DEAR EDITOR,

When I first joined Toc H the magazine was printed(?) on "Miss Gestetner," so that I think I may claim some experience as a reader! What I've never yet made out is what most of the critics want of their magazine. In what class or category do they want it to be? Is it, for instance, to be bracketed with

- (a) *Punch*.
- (b) *The Humorist*.
- (c) *The Spectator*.
- (d) *Answers*.
- (e) *The Autocar*.
- (f) *The Wide World Magazine*?

Or is it to be different from all of these just because Toc H is a real family with its own "mind" and its own "news"? After all, why should every part suit everybody? If there is one article which sets me thinking along some new avenue, if but one paragraph opens my eyes—isn't that issue worth while? Isn't the real problem that of the readers themselves? In this connection I would like to quote a paragraph from F. J. Sheed's *Ground Plan for Catholic Reading*:—

"The trouble about reading is that it is the name for two totally different activities. Reading—serious reading—the great means of contact with the world about us and our fathers before us, is an educational activity in the fullest sense. Education cannot proceed without it But there is a game of the same name, played with similar implements—the pastime called reading. Its genesis is easy to trace. Men hate having anything to do. But

men also hate having nothing to do. The human race, therefore, has always been fertile in the invention of things to do which are equivalent to nothing—things which will pass the time. This accounts for most of our reading; nothing happens in the mind—simply the time passes."

Isn't that perhaps why the JOURNAL is criticised—it makes one think?

Yours gratefully,
LEN.

Bromley, Kent.

* * * *

DEAR EDITOR,

In the matter of the unsatisfactoriness of the JOURNAL, may I advance my opinion as a mobile member whose chief links with the Family are letters from members and the JOURNAL?

Instead of the Tigne Group's seven points (which I consider somewhat puerile) I would pose two questions to all who are not satisfied with the JOURNAL:

- (1) What is the function of the JOURNAL?
- (2) How can it best be shaped to fulfil this function?

Before giving an answer to (1) we must consider that the JOURNAL is not the only Toc H publication, is limited in size, is only issued once per month, and must be, whether we like it or not, a very important instrument for telling the world about Toc H. Are we ashamed to show it to our friends, and, if so, is the fault necessarily in the JOURNAL?

In finding the answers to (2) we must assume that all members diligently study every page of the JOURNAL every month. Among the great diversity of Toc H membership it can only be expected that the appeal of each different feature is not equal. Many of us, I fear, glance hastily through the current issue when it arrives and, finding no sensational, or comic, captions, cast it aside and turn to the easier reading of the *Daily Mirror*, or *Evening Standard*. Then, when the next issue arrives we remember, with guilty annoyance, that we have not much idea of what was in last month's JOURNAL, gaze sorrowfully upon the accumulation of unread back numbers on top of the cupboard,

* * * *

If all the unemployed in our great cities wanted to play outdoor games on the same afternoon, there would be accommodation for about one-fourth of one per cent. of them.

and think hard thoughts of the Editorial staff.

I consider that some articles in the JOURNAL might have been written more simply and directly, and that such items as the "Symbol of Light" and the Dürer etching, in the November and December issues respectively, might well have been omitted.

Apart from this, however, I think we have a better JOURNAL than we deserve, and that it seems to be improving.

Yours sincerely,

Ramleh.

A. TIDY (Sergt., R.A.F.)

"To Disturb Peacefully"

DEAR EDITOR,

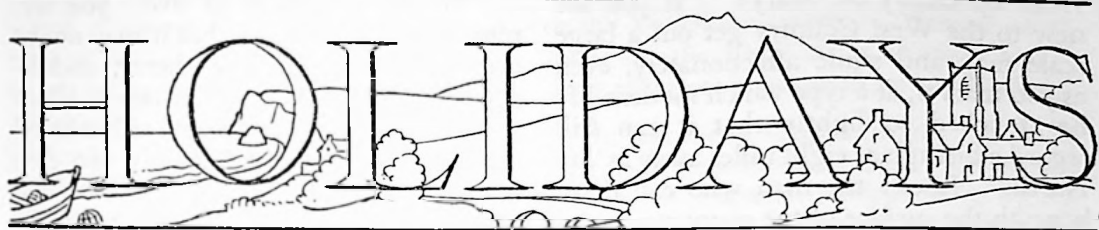
The references in recent JOURNALS to the above addition to the aims of Toc H, as posted in an Australian Mark, remind me of an incident that occurred in the very early post-war days of Toc H, before "The Four Points of the Compass" had ever been formulated, I fancy. Tubby was on a visit to Cambridge, and he came to pay a call on me in the "Syndicate Room" of the University Press, where I worked in those days. The walls of the room were lined with copies of that firm's publications. Tubby proceeded on a casual inspection. As he reached a corner devoted almost entirely to abstruse mathematical and scientific treatises, I remarked, "I'm afraid you'll find some pretty dull stuff there," and picked out one title at random—*The Propagation of Disturbances in Dispersive Media*. "Oh," rejoined Tubby, without a moment's hesitation, "that seems to me very much to the point; it's just what Toc H is aiming at."

Tubby, as like as not, will have completely forgotten the incident; but it has always stuck in my mind as an illustration both of his mental agility and of one aspect of the purpose of Toc H.

Yours sincerely,

Sussex.

G. V. CAREY.



Loudly Sing Cuckoo

THE holiday list has just appeared at your desk and you have filled in, hopefully, the dates July 30th to August 17th. (By doing this you include the Bank Holiday week-end and thereby gain two extra days:—very important and rather cunning, and no one else has ever thought of it.) Having signed, arms are folded on your desk, you lean slightly forward and look through the window, gradually forgetting the business present and indulging, instead, in the joy of reminiscence. The holiday list; curtain raiser to the Summer! The office walls retire into a misty background and even the neighbouring jam factory, chameleon-like, changes its familiar odour. It may be largely imagination, but you are suddenly conscious of a certain scent. At first it is difficult to place, and then in an instant your mind is carried back to the afternoon when you found yourself half walking, half stumbling down the goat track to the deep, pine-wooded combe twenty yards away. It was a hot afternoon; too hot, really, for walking. Away on the left the hills leading to Dunkery were patched red with dodder. Bracken, motionless and full-grown; wortleberries, heather, the pines and larches, black, peaty earth; these were the ingredients which Nature had mixed and was now offering you.

A warm, delicate scent which you will meet unaccountably and recognise immediately on odd occasions throughout your

life—passing through a narrow Soho street, looking out into the veldt from a platform of the “Union Limited.” Whenever it comes you will know it, and something intangible will pull gently at your heart, for the varying scents of the countryside have a power all their own.

Of course you were terribly fortunate last year, for instead of a boarding house you enjoyed the hospitality of friends on the South Devon coast, quickly merging yourself in the hatching, matching and dispatching of the district. And what fun it was too! With a keen and sensitive mind you were able to appreciate to the full the flavour of daily events. There was that awful business with the Golf Club, when the Club had threatened to close a pathway which tradition had long established as a right of way. No documents were available to prove anything, and the suspense became impossible to bear. The authorities had gone to a very old man and said “George, has the path over the links always been a right of way?”, to which had been replied “I can’t zactly remember, vir I ’aven’t always come vrom thase yer parts,—I come vrom up North.” Authority’s eyebrows were raised in utter amazement at such a heresy from so obvious a son of Devon, who had been known, moreover, never to have travelled further North than Dulverton. The oracle, sensing disbelief, qualified his statement with some heat,—“Yu knows vurry wull that I comes

from up Ottery St. Mary!" If you are new to the West Country get out a large scale map and smile affectionately, even as you marvel, at a type which modern life has touched so lightly that it can still regard a birthplace eight miles away as "up North." Lucky the man who can delve beneath the surface of the countryside and can discover the gems of personality and unconscious humour embedded there.

The moors are now behind, and inevitably you turn to the sea with the eagerness natural to every Englishman. It is the Warren, with the smooth tide rapidly filling up the Creek which once led to Crispins. Your boat is high up on the beach and cannot be afloat for half-an-hour. But fancy waiting for the tide to come to a boat when there is the joy to be had of pushing a boat down to the tide! Heaving, straining, grunting; she is trundled over the oars to the very edge of the water. The bow touches it. Another heave and she is in two inches: a long sliding shove this time, and there are five inches of water beneath her. Once more, and she is actually afloat. The thrill of a boat that ceases to grate on the sand and is suddenly buoyant, afloat!—almost as though it had a soul which has yearned for freedom from earthly restraint and finally breaks free.

Get her out! Clamber in and drop that centre board quickly; up with the mast and the old three-cornered sail, and within a minute you are gliding out into the Bight to Star Cross—up the river with the Topsham fishing fleet bearing down upon you. Short, choppy little waves smack and clutter and gurgle past and beneath you. Who on earth wants to undulate over the face of the country in a fast car when there is the other glorious alternative of just mucking about in a boat, feeling it lift under you and listening to its joyful chatter with the fresh, clean-looking waves of incoming tide?

"To sail a boat is to live" you say, remembering, even so, that it may not be everyone's choice. The cheery, middle-aged mother of four for instance, whom you overheard addressing one of her brood and the world in general only two days before. "Maggie," she called to her eldest daughter; "Maggie, I'm going to paddle while you bathe, dearie. I must have me paddle! I can't go 'ome to father and not have a paddle." Obviously the silence of your wooded combe would leave her cold spiritually and all of a glow physically, while to have her afloat in your dinghy would most certainly end in sea-sickness or shipwreck, or both.

No, her holiday must be a matter of charabancs and ice-cream, crowded beaches and much paddling. And why not? A slightly superior person, happening by, turned to a friend and made contemptuous reference to "these trippers," and you had become silently indignant.

Why shouldn't she paddle if she wanted to? And anyhow who said that the bay belonged to the people who owned the huts on the foreshore? Go on, my dear!—pull up your skirts and paddle and laugh and shriek to your heart's content!

This is your holiday: enjoy it—revel in it! Don't worry about showing your petticoat, we shan't mind a bit. So proletarian did you become that for two pins you would have thrown a pebble—admittedly a very small pebble—through the window of one of the smug, locally-owned huts.

The pleasant mists of memory were still about you, and with the same half-ethereal smile you remembered that most lovely evening in Polperro. Leaning over the bridge with a pipe drawing well, looking out between the backs of queer little, cock-eyed houses obviously taken from Grimm's Fairy Tales, out across the harbour. The exact situation and time of day for reverie

and sentimental thoughts. But the unexpected is always to be allowed for. A window overlooking the beautiful little stream opens suddenly. A hand securely holding some domestic ware is thrust out, tilted and as quickly withdrawn. The joys of the country are many, and not least among them is its honest-to-goodness sanitation.

And so your mind wanders unhindered among your old, familiar loves. It makes no difference whether it takes you to the

Cuillins, the Welsh mountains, the Lakes or the Yorkshire moors, to Margate or to Iona, for the scene alone changes and a deep affection is common to all scenes.

The telephone rings, bringing you back from your dreams to the desk. But you no longer feel resentful for you have signed the Holiday List. Your dreams will soon be reality. They are just round the corner, waiting for the dawn of July 30th.

G. M.

Helpful Holidays

MANY TOC H members have already discovered the fact that the best holidays are often those spent in helping other people to have the best possible holidays. This summer will provide opportunities for many others to make the same discovery.

A good many Toc H units will already be planning to organise camps for boys who might otherwise not have the chance of getting away, and at dozens of camps run by Clubs, Scouts and Brigades all over the country there will be Toc H members lending a hand. Many such camps are still short-handed and there is need for more men of the right sort to offer their help. Let us, however, be frank about this business. Not every member is suited for the job, and the man who isn't is more nuisance than he is worth to the camp leader. It is probable that to be really effective at a boys' club camp one should have spent some evenings with the club during the other fifty-one weeks of the year, for the week of camp is the climax of a year's work. On the other hand it is probably equally true that one week spent in camp has very often been the prelude to a man finding himself spending a good deal of the remaining fifty-one weeks in a club. The point is that a good boys'

camp is always either the climax to something or the beginning of something else, and the Toc H member offering his services should remember this.

While this is true of camps run by clubs, Troops, etc., there are in addition a number of large camps organised mainly for boys unattached to any organisation, and at these also there is nearly always a need for more helpers who will take their coats off to it and realise that there are spuds to be peeled and wood to be chopped and that camping is not just a matter of heartiness round a camp fire in the twilight.

Many Toc H members have for years fully realised all this and we hope that this summer many others will offer themselves with the same understanding and on the same terms, remembering always that the responsibility for the final selection of his helpers must remain with the camp leader.

Nor are boys' camps the only ways open for those who would like a part, at least, of their holidays to be helpful both to themselves and other people. Two articles in recent JOURNALS have described two other such opportunities—"Holidays for the Blind" in April (p. 164), and "Work Camps and Toc H" in May (p. 215).

The Quest

THE guide-books sometimes call it an "old-world" atmosphere, but it is not necessarily "old-world," and in any case it is more than that. It is the impenetrable secret of a place which fills the visitor with a vague curiosity and which gets him up early in the morning to explore in the hope that he will find something momentous. What does he expect to find? He never quite knows. What does he actually find? A market cross, perhaps; an ancient church; a river with gardens sloping down to the bank; an inn with galleries overlooking a courtyard, restfully green and cool with long hanging strands of creeper. But everything he finds contributes towards the propounding of the riddle. He finds nothing which gives him the solution. Let him walk along all the roads and paths which it is possible for him to walk along. Let him subsequently learn up all the historical facts about the place. It will all be of no avail. The big thing about the place remains hidden from him.

It is not all places that hold a secret. The residential suburbs of large cities hold none. Nor do the streets of popular seaside resorts, flanked almost entirely by lodging-houses and private hotels. Unlike inns, hotels, and even the word "hotel," discourage the sense of mystery, unless it is connected with a murder in Room 512 or with the constituents of the soup. As for lodging-houses, not much can be expected from places where a peep through the window discloses an aspidistra growing out of a hole in the back of a porcelain swan, and in the gloom beyond, dismal holiday-makers consuming wholesome food (terms moderate). There is indeed mystery in the sea, as much as one could want, but the artificiality of the "prom" drives it away

beyond the horizon whence it reappears only in the night or at dawn or when the fury of the waves makes hash of the Corporation's concrete.

Those who rhapsodise over "quaint old Cornish towns" seem to have sensed a certain mystery, but on the whole they have ignored the fact that "quaintness" may be found in every district, even in the flattest of fens. It is strange that, by derivation, the word "quaint" means "known," whereas we apply it to places about which we feel that there is something unknown, some mystery that attracts us. But a place need be neither "quaint" nor "old" in order to have something of the quality. Is there not a lure in railway-stations, docks, canals and even in the great trunk-roads along which the heavy lorries come roaring and rattling on their way to the furthest parts of the kingdom?

What is the common factor in the vast diversity of places which, if they could tell us their secret—or if we could be still and alert enough to hear it—might admit us to a new realm where our most fantastic cravings would be fulfilled? To say that this factor is glamour or romance is only to call it by a name and to explain nothing. But the matter, by its very nature, defies analysis. We can only collect together the memories of the places which have given us the feeling and note the many, sometimes apparently insignificant, sights, sounds and smells that have contributed towards producing it. During the coming holidays we can also hope to add to this store of memories. We shall doubtless see old walls with little plants growing in the crevices, the strong-smelling mud of estuaries marked with the footprints of gulls, sand-dunes with the bents bowing to the wind, nooks in gorse-thickets with the noise

of the miniature cannonade as the seed-pods burst in the sun. And we shall also find narrow streets with countless tributary passages and courts, market-places lighted with flares, green mounds with pine trees growing on them, and cottage windows adorned with pots containing pale bell-flowers or Creeping Jenny. Even simpler

things may add to the spell, such as a line of poplars, a bend in the road, a junk-shop, a scrap-heap, a bridge, a ditch.

Many things, perhaps all things not connected with human blasphemy, are doorways on the other side of which that mysterious thing that we seek may be found. But to whom will the doors open?
K.

Another side of the Picture

A Toc H member living in a popular seaside resort writes about the holiday season from the point of view of the local resident.

OF the many thousands who will be having holidays in the summer of 1938, it is certain that a large majority will at some time or another, even if only on a day trip, visit one of those seaside resorts which are described by the press as "popular." How many of these holiday-makers will give a thought to the town they visit, not as a place set apart for their pleasure and entertainment but in its aspect as a town in which people have their homes and earn their livings? Not many; if they do they will consider it to be amazingly prosperous and wish that they were the proprietors of the hotel or boarding house at which they are staying and which at the time is full to overflowing. They will see the crowds in the shops, at the cinemas and other entertainments, in the amusement parks or the public houses and engaged in all the other hundred and one methods of spending money on holiday, and brood on the profits that must be made.

But there is another side to the picture. Two short months after that hectic Bank Holiday week in August the town's only industry will be shut and the inhabitants must settle down to a long winter of eight months broken only for a few days at Christmas and Easter, before the wheels begin to turn again. Every year that

winter seems to get longer and poverty of the more genteel kind becomes more acute. The unemployment figures are so heavy that some seaside resorts could be classed as distressed areas. But these figures do not tell the whole story. In large numbers of small houses elderly people, mostly women, are living at a pathetically low level endeavouring to make their summer savings extend till the next season. Unfortunately their "season" is dwindling away. Their type of accommodation does not appeal to the modern holiday-maker, who requires a band, dance-hall, bar, hot and cold water and all the other luxuries of a modern hotel. The presence of these elderly people, who at one time could make a fair living during the summer but are now unable to do so, presents a very difficult social problem.

The "season" reaches its height in the first week in August and that is probably the only time when the town may be described as full. Everybody works desperately hard and has little time for sleep. From early morning till only a little earlier the next morning the visitors' wants must be catered for and visitors are not always reasonable in their demands. At the time of year when the hotel proprietors and others should be rubbing their hands with joy at their harvest of visitors,

they are actually too overworked to do so, as a result of the difficulty in obtaining adequate staff. Domestic service is not considered an attractive employment and though good wages are offered it is only for a limited period of at the longest four or five months, and in some cases the conditions under which the staff have to live are far from satisfactory, though there has been a considerable improvement in recent years.

At the moment, all concerned in earning

their living at seaside resorts are watching with interest the development of "holidays with pay" schemes and hoping that firms adopting such schemes will not consider it essential that the week's holiday they intend to grant their employees shall be the August Bank Holiday week. The "spread-over holiday" system would be of as great an advantage to those catering for holiday-makers as for the holiday-makers themselves.

X.

A Great Idea

YOU never can tell how far a great idea will go. 'B.P.' did not foresee the whole world scouting when he held his first little camp at Brownsea. Tubby was not planning a world-wide Toc H when he opened a soldiers' club one winter's night in Poperinghe. And when, in 1910, Richard Schirrmann, a provincial schoolmaster in Westphalia, got the use of one little house for his schoolchildren in the holidays, he had not the slightest idea that it would prove to be the first of over 4,000 Youth Hostels in twenty different countries as far apart as Poland, the United States and New Zealand. In each case a great idea had one man with most uncommon faith and vision behind it.

The Growth of an Idea

Figures are the food of auditors and poison to many plain men. But here are a few simple figures about the German Youth Hostels, the pioneers of all others:

Year.	Hostels.	'Bed-nights'*
1910	1	No record
1911	17	3,000
1914	200	17,000
1920	700	186,000
1922	1,400	1,074,000
1927	2,318	2,655,000
1932	2,320	4,278,595
1934	1,993	5,880,743

* 'Bed-nights' is a convenient term used by Youth Hostels. It means the number of times in the year that the beds in the hostels are used, not the number of visitors, for one visitor may sleep in many hostels in the course of a year.

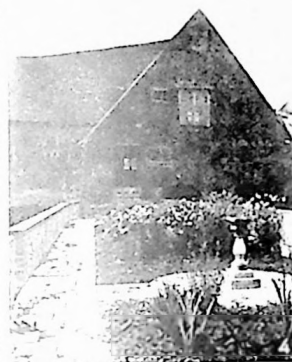
All sorts of interesting things lie buried in these figures. Notice only one or two. The number of hostels leaps up astonishingly until 1927 (between 1920 and 1922, for instance, it doubles and the 'bed-nights' increase nearly six-fold). Then it becomes stationary—old and primitive hostels are being replaced by bigger and better ones, specially built for their purpose. And then, between 1932 and 1934, the number of hostels actually declines. Something decidedly happened in 1933—the foundation of the Third Reich. Youth Hostels, like everything else in Germany, were 'co-ordinated' by the State. Many older ones were suppressed; a grandiose new building programme was hurried forward. To-day the total is about 1,800. And the atmosphere of them has changed inevitably, too. They still welcome foreign visitors, under the ubiquitous Swastika flag, but they are flamboyant with the drums and uniforms of the Hitler Youth. As a leader of young Germany said to me proudly the other day, "The Youth Hostels don't count in the same way with us as they used to do—you see, Germany doesn't *walk* now, she *marches*." And Richard Schirrmann, who left school-mastering and built a great movement? He does not come into the picture nowadays. Indeed, we, who are his friends



Top: The entrance of Thorney How Hostel, Grasmere, Lakeland.

Centre: Bishopstone Hostel, near Swindon, Wiltshire.

Bottom: Tollsworth Manor, Chaldon, Surrey, once the property of Henry VIII and of Queen Elizabeth, now a Youth Hostel.



1. Plotting to-morrow's route at Llwy-on Hostel, Brecknock, South Wales; 2. The simple Common-room at Clun Mill Hostel, Shropshire; 3. The modern Common-room in the specially-built Hostel of Holmbury St. Mary, Surrey; 4. The City Mill Hostel, Winchester, from the garden; 5. Derwent Hall, Ashopton, Derbyshire, a Jacobean Hostel which will soon be 'drowned' in a new reservoir; 6. 'Once Brewed,' a Hostel, once a cow-hyre, by the Roman Wall, Northumberland.

and followers in other countries, have had cause to be anxious on his account. But for us his ideals remain; he is the genius of a great idea which has gone round the world. No one can assess the influence of Scouting, Toc H or Youth Hostels, for each of these is an affair of the spirit and no mere institution.

The Beginnings at Home

Great ideas are infectious, and some of us caught the Youth Hostels microbe badly in Germany years ago. In 1930, late in the day but not too late (the British are often like that) a few of us said "What about it?" and got together in committee, first in Liverpool and then in London. Here (if you can bear another set of figures) is the token of the result in England and Wales* :—

Year.	Members.	Hostels.	'Bed-nights'
1931	6,439	73	No record
1932	16,914	132	78,067
1933	27,905	183	157,582
1934	37,285	212	221,271
1935	48,057	239	307,811
1936	59,768	262	385,407
1937	70,505	275	461,711

* These figures refer only to the Y.H.A. of England and Wales. There are separate Associations in Scotland (about 50 hostels), Northern Ireland (about 20 hostels) and Eire (10 hostels).

To some few of us those figures hold a lot of history; they spell innumerable alarms and excursions (both in a literal sense), victories, defeats, comedy and anxiety, work and true fellowship. Notice one fact, among many, which those figures show—the membership has gone up by a round 10,000 every year since the start. Why?

Why Youth Hostels?

The simplest answer is "Because people *want* Youth Hostels." And then you must ask "Why?" again. The answer to that is more complicated. First of all, because they are cheap. You cannot be sure of finding a decent bed, in nearly all the best parts of the country, at one shilling a night

except in a Youth Hostel. That reason no doubt counted specially at the very start of the movement's history in this country — for 1931 was the year of the great slump. By an awkward coincidence people wanted the cheapest holidays they could get at the precise moment when it was hardest to raise money to provide them with hostels. But we did our best. The enthusiastic teams of volunteers who organise Y.H.A. in its different 'Regions' are not to be denied.

But cheapness is not the most important reason for our progress: the Y.H.A. is much more than a series of shilling lodging-houses. Most of us are almost tired of being told that we live in a 'mechanical age'; it is tiresomely true. Hundreds of thousands among us spend their working lives among machines, minding and feeding them, making and repairing them. Many thousands of others find themselves cogs in the business 'machine' of commerce, banking or insurance. Machinery makes great inroads upon our leisure time also—drama reaches us by the machinery of the cinema projector, music by the machinery of radio, sport by the pool promoter's machinery, even our ideas through the vast machinery of syndicated newspapers. Our very food too often comes to us machine-made: the townsman's cow is milked with a tin-opener, and his pine-apples grow in neat cubes in a machine-made tin. I know families who are as much servants of their motor-cars as a cotton operative of his jenny; their children grow *blasé* and themselves fat and old before their time through the inveterate habit of drifting everywhere in glass boxes on wheels. You can't live a real life merely by turning taps and switches.

But happily much of mankind revolts against a mechanical world. It is heartening to know (ask the C.T.C.) that in pro-

portion as more cars are registered more bicycles come on the road. When it almost looked as if petrol was going before long to relegate the horse to the zoo, riding was reborn—in many cases among people who had never done it before. And in the forefront of the revolt against machinery is the immense army of walkers, the hundreds of thousands who belong to rambling clubs, the tens of thousands who join the Y.H.A.

And so Youth Hostels serve the deep desire of men and women of many nations for health and freedom, for friendship with one another, for a return to simplicity of living and the real and lasting values of life. That is why those who frequent them do not meet as strangers like boarders in a lodging-house. There is a spirit of fellowship and service among them, for they share a common secret of strength and joy.

A Gallery of Pictures

As holiday time begins to come in sight, what pictures of Youth Hostels come into many minds! Here are one or two glimpses from my own gallery.

The green valleys of the Sauerland in Westphalia, deep pinewoods, the bare summit of the Astenberg rising above them in Summer sunshine—and on its flank the hostel where our party has lived for three days. Our party consists of fourteen men; seven are Toc H members (five English and two American) and seven are non-members, all Germans. Yesterday afternoon we lay in the heather for two hours making a direct attack on the thorniest questions between our nations. The engagement was indecisive, for when it got particularly hot, I suggested that we should break up and walk on. *Solvitur ambulando*—"it is solved by walking"—is a Latin tag which could well be the motto of the Youth Hostels movement

everywhere. In twos and threes we tramped across the hills, still discussing, pausing to fill our mouths with wild raspberries, stringing out gradually over a mile of broken country. The sun was low over the pine-tops when we came to a tiny inn on the banks of a clear stream. And there, over pots of pale golden beer in the garden, we found that disagreement, not yet resolved, had brought us a new fellowship with one another. In the sunset we walked home singing to the hostel, supped on big bowls of vegetable soup, and were then challenged to a singing match in the common-room by a party of office girls from Berlin and another of elementary schoolboys from the industrial Ruhr. We sang as we went to bed in our German Army 'double-deckers' in two dormitories (the ceilings of which are painted in orange, lemon and scarlet squares—this hostel is nothing if not cheerful!), until the Warden, a grey-haired ex-schoolmaster, shouted "Shut up—and good-night!"

* * * *

Another German scene, a few years after the War. This time there are no less than seventy of us in the party! I don't really favour "mass-hiking" but must plead guilty to having organised and led this unwieldy company. Fifty of them are boys, and a few masters, from four English public schools (Wellington, Cheltenham, Gresham's and Christ's Hospital) and the other twenty are boys—and a few girls—from a big secondary school in the poorest and, in those days, most 'Left Wing' quarter of Berlin. We left a Dresden Youth Hostel two days ago. To-day we lunched on cold sausage, bread and cheese on the towering sandstone "bridge" of the Bastei, looking down on miles of velvety forest in the heat-haze below us. And this evening we sit talking, with visitors of several other nations,

before bed-time in the courtyard of a great mediæval castle perched on a precipitous cliff, Hohnstein, for centuries a grim prison (British officers were shut in it not many years ago), now a Youth Hostel—"the Castle of Youth"—with 500 beds. My bed is in a great loft with ninety-nine others; it is hard as a brick, but I could sleep on a clothes-line to-night. To-morrow we march on, a great company of people discovering each other as friends.

* * * *

By contrast, I am alone. Last night I left London and slept unquietly and cold in the corner of a third-class compartment. This December morning I saw the smoky red sunrise as I tramped about the sleeping streets of Penrith, longing for a hot drink; then, at last, the connecting train to Keswick, breakfast large and leisurely, and I was on the road just as the rain began to fall. Derwentwater was a mist of oxydised silver framed in the black, bare branches of overhanging trees, like a Chinese painting. As I left the Lake and began upon the path which runs by Ashness Bridge, the rain turned to wet blobs of snow, and then, as I got higher, to thick white flakes. Every walker knows the depressing moment of realisation that water is beginning to trickle down his neck and to creep up inside the flapping skirt of his mackintosh and soak his knees at every step: he knows also that the point will arrive, quite soon, when he is really wet and it doesn't matter any more. Dripping at all outstanding points, shoulders white with snow, hands too cold to feel my stick, I dumped my heavy rucksack in the white-washed porch of the farmhouse at Watendlath, "the home of Judith Paris." There was a fire in the kitchen, hot tea, bread and cheese—not to mention a small boy and an amusing sheep-dog pup. Then on, warm and

fresh, to tackle the long slopes of Armboth Fell. It was a lonely world on top, trackless except for the dim guide of cairns which made white bumps against the grey snowfield a hundred yards ahead. The swirling flakes came, blinding, out of a thick yellow sky; there was no mountain to be seen, no one in this silent world but me. A glade of "Christmas trees," bowed down with snow, led down at last to the lakeside of Thirlmere. And there, for the first instant since dawn, the sky opened and let loose a shifting golden spot-light on the wintry flanks of Helvellyn. It opened again as I was tramping over Dunmail Raise and in a sudden glory I saw the top of Scawfell, grandly uplifted in a halo of light. But it was no day for a tramp across to the hostels in Eskdale or Black Sail.

And now, as the winter evening draws in, I sit before a heaped fire on the common room floor of the Grasmere Hostel. "Thorney How" is a fine old Lakeland house, rambling and low-built, with thick stone walls. The snow slides from the laden trees in the garden outside and drifts quietly up the lower window-panes. And a dozen of us, walkers and a few rather bold cyclists, chat within at our ease while we thaw and steam. My solitary seventeen miles across the hills has had some arduous moments but never a dull one. And the hostel is the end of a perfect day.

An open Invitation

So where will you go discovering this next holiday?

Will you start out one morning from the old City Mill, Winchester's lovely hostel which spans a swift mill-stream, and take the Pilgrims' Way towards Canterbury? If so, you will spend a leisurely week, with a great variety of lodging night by night—the Knights Templars' chapel

contrasting with the specially built 'model' hostels of Holmbury St. Mary or Ewhurst, the house at Waggoners Wells or the cottage on the green upon Ide Hill, and the rest, until you come to the ancient house of timber and thatch by the river at Canterbury. And you will know the feeling under your feet of the chalk downs and how the flowers change when you go down to the low meadows.

Or will you follow the Legion along Hadrian's Wall, sleeping a night at 'Once Brewed,' the stone cow-byre turned hostel, pursuing the triangle sign of Y.H.A. day by day out of Northumberland to Carlisle and the Lakes? You will guess how the Roman soldier lived in the forts at Housesteads; you may even suspect an onfall of Picts out of the bare, broken land at dusk.

Or will you leave the smoke of Sheffield and be that night at home in Derwent Hall, the grand Stuart house which is soon to be "the house under the water," drowned in its beautiful valley to make a new reservoir for industrial cities? Perhaps you will come in for a 'working party' and find yourself whitewashing before you go to bed.

Or will you trek across Dorset and come down to the Devon sea at Bolt Head or bathe at Kennack Sands near the Lizard? Or down the Valley of the Wye to Tintern and Chepstow, or side-track into the green Brecon hills? Or from the hostel at Idwal will you climb the walls of Snowdon? Or cycle through Suffolk, or tramp the Pennines or the Cotswolds or the Yorkshire moors under the ubiquitous triangle sign?

Or will you cross the border to the hostels of the S.Y.H.A.—the village schoolhouse at Macbeth's Birnham, the

low huts at Brig o' Turk or beside Loch Lomond, that remote shooting-lodge on Rannoch Moor, or the feudal castle of Ferniehirst?

Or will you go further afield—for the membership card of our own Y.H.A. is a passport all over Europe—to the Forest of Fontainebleau or the Belgian Ardennes and Luxembourg, to the mountain huts of Austria or Switzerland, the spotless rooms in Holland, the hostels of Poland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Czechoslovakia—even the hostels of old Ireland or New England?

The world is yours at one shilling a night. And you will see more of it in the hostels than on the crowded beach at Skegness, or by trying to visit half the Cathedrals of England by car in ten days. You will discover your own muscles (they clamour less with every day's walking or cycling); you will hear and see and understand secrets which are hidden from men travelling at speed and carrying their own noise and smell with them—bird-song at morning and night, the flowers which choose this soil or that, the movements of clouds, the music of leaves and water, the changing speech and building fashion of the counties, the history at the heart of every village. And you will be alone when you wish (all good walkers are often alone) or among friends of every class and kind—for there is a true brotherhood of the road in every land. This is the freedom for which wise men seek.

NOTE.—If you are under 25 membership of the Y.H.A. costs 2s. 6d. a year; for veterans from 25 to 90, 5s. But all information can be had—with a 6d. Handbook—from The Secretary, Youth Hostels Association, Trevelyan House, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

B. B.

*What is this life, if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare? . . .*

W. H. DAVIES.

Organised Holidays

*"Let's all be happy together,
For you can't be happy by yourself!"*

CYNICS will probably say that the words of this popular song are but another example of the regrettable herd-instinct so typical of the present age, and it is certainly true that people seem to like to do things in crowds these days. But do not let us be too superior about it. While we would certainly deny the truth of the philosophy of the Frothblowers' Anthem—"The more we are together, the merrier we shall be,"—it remains true that good company is an essential ingredient, for most people, of a good holiday. Fortunate is the man who is able to select congenial companions, and plan for himself the fascinating details of his annual week or fortnight of freedom. But there are many who, through no fault of their own, are deprived of this additional pleasure. Many are forced to take their holidays (if they are fortunate enough to have any) at a time when their friends are not free. Others (not many in Toc H, we hope) have no friends whom they would care to ask to share a holiday. For such as these and many others there are now a considerable number of non-profit-making organisations which provide excellent and varied holiday menus. And from the very fact that they are able to arrange things on a large scale, these organisations can bring within the reach of a quite modest pocket such delights as foreign travel and visits to distant and lovely parts of our own islands. True the menu is necessarily *table d'hôte* and not *à la carte*, but you can't have it both ways. And if Toc H is truly described, among other things, as an "adventure in friendship," do not such holidays provide a really grand opportunity for forging new links in a new world chain of friendship?

We print below a list of some of these organisations with some notes about each.

The Workers' Travel Association, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1. This organisation, which is independent and non-political, provides an extensive programme of foreign travel, including cruises, and has many holiday centres in Great Britain. Its mountaineering section organises climbing parties and tuition for beginners at home and abroad.

The Co-operative Holidays Association, Birch Heys, Fallowfield, Manchester. Caters especially for walking and climbing. Its foreign tours offer special opportunities for making acquaintance with people of the country visited.

The Holiday Fellowship, 142, Great North Way, London, N.W.4. An organisation very similar to the C.H.A., and, like it, seeking to promote international understanding and goodwill through travel. Both the Holiday Fellowship and the Co-operative Holidays Association run holiday camps which offer excellent and inexpensive holidays for parties of boys and girls. Both organisations maintain a number of permanent centres in old country houses which offer delightful and relatively inexpensive accommodation.

The Youth Hostels Associations, here and abroad. (See article on page 262).

The Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland, 38, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. Organises camps and camp tours, and provides a list of camping sites and much information on camping technique and equipment. For particulars of membership application should be made to the Secretary.

The Y.M.C.A., Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1, organises holidays for men, whether members or non-members of the Association. The charges range from as little as 15/- up to about two guineas a week at different centres. Holidays abroad are arranged, and there is a holiday centre at the Chateau de la Falaise, near Boulogne.

Morning in Camp

*Suddenly bird-song is part of your dreaming,
As streams weave their song through the quiet of the air.
You stir and slip back to the sweetness of sleeping
As a little wind breathes at the roots of your hair.*

*Lowling of cows driven home to the milking;
Shouting, a swishing of feet,—and you lie
Full awake staring out at the blue of the morning
And the smoke from the farm curling into the sky.*

*Dew on the grass, as you roll from your blankets,
Lovely as quicksilver, cool to the feet;
Sun flooding softly through mist from the river,
Scent of wet hedgerows, pervasive and sweet.*

*River still sleeping, untroubled, unruffled;
You dive and awake it. Your body gleams white,
Your arms churning fountains of silver, like mill-wheels,
Till the river laughs with you and shares your delight.*

*You stand all aglow on the bank in the sunshine
While songs never written seek birth in your brain.
Slow ripples come stroking the reeds in the shallows
And the river falls softly to sleeping again.*

*Crackle of twigs burning under the billy,
Sizzle of bacon, warm comfort of tea;
Mornings like this bring the joy of true living,
A vision of life as God meant it to be.*

A. G. C.



TOWARDS "B.E.L.R.A. WEEK"

In view of the week June 19 to 26 in which it has been suggested (see May JOURNAL, p. 224) that Toc H should specially remember and help the Leprosy work, we print below a short account of the way in which a country town Branch tackled the job of arousing public opinion in the work of B.E.L.R.A.

IT began when a Toc H man home from Africa visited the Branch and, with lantern slides, explained the plight of the lepers and what is being done for them. He made a great impression because he was matter-of-fact and restrained and let the pictures tell their own story. It was not surprising that his visit bore fruit a few months later.

One of the members was in London and called at the headquarters of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. He came back with literature, a set of slides and much information which was passed on to the Branch at its next meeting. Soon a plan of campaign was arranged and fifteen villages were visited in about two months. A lantern, a car-battery to operate it and a screen were lent and there were constant volunteers with motor-cars. An appeal secretary and an O.C. literature and collecting boxes were appointed. The village clergy and squires pulled happily together and at each meeting a local secretary was found. The country pub is a good place for a box.

So, quietly but surely, the countryside became interested and many a member found the darkness of a village hall and the self-explanatory slides a great help when speaking in public for the first time. Meanwhile preparations were being made for a week-end conference and school. Dr. Lindsey, a delightful Scotsman who worked with the lepers for 34 years, came from B.E.L.R.A. headquarters with A. J. Cowell, the exhibition and organising secretary. They showed a film and gave a detailed account of B.E.L.R.A.'s work. Other branches were represented at the conference.

The campaign reached its climax with a well-advertised meeting in the town hall. Admission was free by tickets which could be obtained from Toc H members, local padres and village secretaries. By great good fortune

T. P. Ratcliff, a Toc H man, crossed the path and offered his services. The day came and the hall was filled. The Branch chairman made the necessary introductory remarks and A. J. Cowell, with lantern slides, gave a fine lecture on B.E.L.R.A.'s work in the British Empire. "T. P." followed with community singing and then made a forceful appeal. At the end there was a good collection, more literature was distributed and many boxes were taken. So Toc H made B.E.L.R.A. known in the district.

The next stage of the campaign will open in the autumn when at a public meeting the boxes will be opened. Local secretaries and others interested will be invited. Cowell will come again to explain plans for an exhibition to be held in the spring of 1939. During the autumn and winter other villages will be visited and other units in the county will be encouraged to undertake work on similar lines. Working parties in towns and villages have already promised their support.

The Branch has proved by experience the importance of the following points: Contact with headquarters, first-hand if possible; a special secretary; O.C. literature and boxes; rotas of fellows to run the lantern and give the talks at village meetings; week-end conference, if possible at the beginning of the campaign; a public meeting; the whole leading up to the exhibition. S. P.

A B.E.L.R.A. Magazine

A new venture in the shape of a small quarterly non-technical periodical entitled the *B.E.L.R.A. Quarterly Magazine*, was launched in April. It contains interesting news of our workers and should be very useful to us. It is obtainable (price 3d.) from the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, 131, Baker Street, London, W.1.

The following is to be substituted for paragraph 41 in "RULES OF THE ROAD—A Handbook for Members of Toc H." This sheet should be cut out and pasted over the paragraph printed on pages 29-30 of "RULES OF THE ROAD."

41. The Toc H League of Women Helpers was formed in July, 1922. It is not an "affiliated organization" since membership of Toc H is not, under the existing decisions of the Toc H Central Council, open to women (see para. 98). Nevertheless the L.W.H. is closely linked with Toc H and is allowed the use of the words "Toc H" in its title under conditions agreed between the two Central Executives.

The League of Women Helpers served at first mainly to organize and direct the interest in and service to Toc H which had been given since its earliest days. Gradually the scope of the L.W.H. was extended and in 1927 a change was made in its Constitution. The aim became more definitely to carry the ideals of Toc H into the lives of women and girls. The Group and Branch method was used, units starting in places where Toc H was agreed that they should do so. In 1937 the clause in its Constitution laying down that no new unit of the L.W.H. should be started in any place except with the sanction of the local Branch of Toc H was deleted by agreement with Toc H. Although the sanction of Toc H is not now necessary, no new unit of the L.W.H. is started without the goodwill of the Toc H Branch where such exists.

Since 1926 the L.W.H. have held Lamps which are different in design from the Toc H Lamps of Maintenance. These are known as the Lamps of the Mag-nificat. With the permission of Toc H these have been

lit by the Patroness from the Prince of Wales' Lamp. After the L.W.H. Council of 1937 the practice of granting Lamps to Branches was changed. Lamps are given to units much earlier in their existence, when they have shown that they are well established and capable of growing along the right lines. This separates the giving of a Lamp from the granting of Branch status. The units thus holding Lamps remain Groups until they have reached the standard required for Branch status.

The L.W.H. units carry out their own plan of work and group life and co-operate with Toc H in work and study and in the furtherance of their common ideal. Separate meetings of Toc H and L.W.H., as regards units, Districts and Areas, are the normal rule. Joint meetings may, with advantage to the growth of co-operation, be arranged, but these should not be frequent, and should be planned with the definite object of furthering some constructive piece of work or study, upon which both are engaged.

It is along these lines rather than by purely social meetings that Toc H and L.W.H. will best come to understand each other's methods of working out their common principles. In the same way separate pilgrimages are the normal practice, but for similar reasons to those indicated above joint pilgrimages are occasionally sanctioned by the Toc H and L.W.H. Central Executives.

Provision exists for mutual discussion of matters of common concern between the respective headquarters staffs and, where desired, between leaders in the Areas. DELETION.

Appendix X (*Details Governing the Working of Toc H with the L.W.H.*) is to be deleted. (June, 1938.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

THE Central Council, the governing body of Toc H, held its Annual Meeting on the afternoon of Saturday, April 30, in London. (A Special Meeting of the Council, held on January 29, was reported in a supplement to the March JOURNAL). As last year, a number of Councillors enjoyed a trip on the Thames with Tubby in the morning; as nearly always, the afternoon meeting coincided with the Cup Final at Wembley. Councillors assembled at 2 p.m. in All Hallows Church, for prayers, and then walked across the gardens on Tower Hill to 42, Trinity Square for their meeting.

The chair was taken, for the last time before his retirement, by P. SUTHERLAND GRAEME.

The meeting agreed, as usual, to give permission to those present who were not Councillors to speak but not to vote. Overseas visitors introduced to the meeting were the Bishop of Gambia and the Rio Pongas (JOHN DALY), the Bishop of Uganda (C. E. STUART) and Major F. C. COY, from Kohat, India.

Appointment of Officers

Hon Treasurer: A letter was read from WM. A. HURST (Hon. Treasurer) regretting his absence on grounds of health. The Council was asked to approve the appointment of DONALD S. CAMPBELL (for some time Assistant Hon. Treasurer) as Joint Hon. Treasurer. This was agreed to unanimously.

Administrator: H. U. WILLINK said that he had a proposition to make on behalf of the Central Executive, which he felt sure would be received with the utmost enthusiasm and thankfulness. The proposition was that HUBERT SECRETAN should be confirmed by the Council as Hon. Administrator until the end of the Council meeting in April, 1939. This was seconded by Dr. L. F. BROWNE and carried unanimously.

Association Padres: The following appointments made by the Central Executive since the last Annual Meeting were submitted for confirmation (Charter Article VI (4) (iv) and Annual Report, page 36) and were confirmed:—

(i) *Association Padres (Staff):* Revs. J. B. Dakin and D. A. V. Worth.

(ii) *Hon. Association Padres—Home:* Revs. G. J. Chambers, M. E. Coleman, C. G. Pearson, D. J. Wallace (Pres.), G. Williams.

(iii) *Hon. Association Padres—Overseas:* Revs. P. R. Ferris (Australia), A. T. F. Holmes (Canada), R. E. Park (Canada), Rt. Rev. C. S. Reifsnider (American Episcopal, Tokyo), Revs. P. Sands (Australia) and T. J. Savage (South Africa).

NOTE.—All the above, except where shown, are Anglican.

Election of Central Executive

There being no nominations made at the meeting in addition to those shown on the voting papers issued to Councillors, the following, including three new members, were declared to be members of the Central Executive for 1938-39:—

LONDON LIST:—J. R. Brown (N. London), L. F. Browne (N. London), D. S. Campbell (W. London), K. Fraser (E. London), Sir Kenneth Harper (Chairman, Burma Regional Executive to 1936), Lt.-Gen. Sir Reginald May (Trustee), Rev. C. G. Pearson (Jt. Chief Hon. Ovs. Comnr., former All-India Padre), H. U. Willink (former Chairman, London Area and Central Executives).

REST OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND LIST:—J. C. Booth (Kent), J. Bostock (Manchester), B. T. Dickson (Oxford & Thames Valley), W. J. Lake Lake (former Hon. Comnr. Argentina), Rev. M. P. G. Leonard (former Administrative Padre, etc.), E. O. Moss (Manchester), Rev. H. F. Sawbridge (Western), A. W. Stapley (Surrey and Sussex).

Ex Officio:—Rev. P. B. Clayton (Founder Padre), Rev. F. E. Ford (Administrative Padre), Wm. A. Hurst (Hon. Treasurer), H. A. Secretan (Hon. Administrator).

Responsibility of Area Executives

W. E. PALMER (South Western Area) moved:—

"That this Council requests the Central Executive to consider giving increased responsibility to Area Executives in all matters of administration, including finance."

He said that the Resolution was no criticism of Headquarters, nor did he wish to invite a lot of discussion upon it. It was a suggestion that the devolution accorded to Area Executives some years since should be carried a stage further after due examination. The Resolution simply asked that the Central Executive should examine whether further responsibility could not well be laid upon Area Executives. Such Executives were composed of highly responsible members who could shoulder a further burden, and all the Resolution asked was that the Central Executive should examine the proposition and if they found that further responsibility could quite well be committed to Area Executives, then to act. It was obviously not a dangerous Resolution. It merely asked that a committee of enquiry be set up to examine the position and report.

THE HON. ADMINISTRATOR said he entirely accepted the spirit in which the Resolution was conceived. The mover had talked to him about it, and he knew that what he said was the exact truth. It was moved in no spirit of antagonism. In some ways it was to be welcomed. They had been considering a number of matters which concerned the use of staff. That had been forced upon them by the financial position, and they had felt bound to prepare the ground for any situation which might arise. Apart from financial considerations he felt that they had now reached a stage in the development of Toc H at home in which it was right and proper that further responsibility should be undertaken by Area Executives for the welfare and administration of Toc H. From the point of view of freeing the staff for pioneer work and dealing with the difficult problem of training and the no less difficult problem of extending interest, it was to be welcomed, but he had gone enough into the question to realise that it was an exceedingly difficult one. The difficulty was this, that Toc H of its nature must be a unity; its principles, its methods and its standards must be maintained. He agreed that there must be some flexible give and take between the centre and the Area. He did not think that that was in the least beyond their

capacity to work out to the usefulness of the whole movement, but he did want the Council to realise that it was a very difficult and complex problem, and they had got to take time to work the thing out. It had got to be considered point by point. In regard to the devolution of financial responsibility, it was obvious that it would be particularly difficult at a time when the total resources of Toc H were unequal to its total commitments. The help being given by Area Executives in raising new income was gratefully acknowledged. When it came to Area responsibility for expenditure, it was a matter he had discussed with the Hon. Treasurer and one which he thought could be gone into, but there was no use pretending that, while the present financial position remained what it was, the devolution of such authority to any great extent to Area Executives was other than extremely difficult.

The League of Women Helpers

A report on the progress made in discussions between Toc H and L.W.H. had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting: it is printed here, on page vii. THE HON. ADMINISTRATOR said that he did not think it necessary to say anything in addition to what was in the statement before them. They were carrying on the policy laid down in the statement presented last year, and he hoped they would leave it to them to carry on on those lines.

The Accounts

DONALD S. CAMPBELL (Joint Hon. Treasurer) said he did not think it was necessary for him to say anything about last year's accounts. With regard to the position as it stood to-day, the first five months of this year disclosed the encouraging feature that members' subscriptions were up by £160, and contributions from Branches and Groups were up by another £160. With regard to Builders, the position might seem a little confusing. The accounts for the five months to the 31st March, 1938, showed a fall of £56 in this item when compared with the corresponding period in 1937. The reason was that last year there were included certain donations

from the Hyde Park Hotel meeting which were not actually annual subscriptions. If these were deducted the Builders' subscriptions were up by approximately £460. That was very satisfactory so far as it went, but there was still an excess of expenditure over income of £2,503 for the five months, as compared with £2,800 for the same period last year, and of course it did not need any elaborate calculation to see that if that went on at the same rate of progress they would have a deficit of over £5,000 at the end of the financial year. He thought that an increase in Builders' contributions might be expected during the course of the next six months, but it would be probably even longer before they received the full benefit. As regards the City Council, unfortunately the Bursar was not able to give them all the help that they had hoped for. The Council was now really going forward in its stride and was starting its personal appeal to individuals. In this and in other ways they were hopeful of a steady stream of new Builders.

J. F. ODELL (Southern London Area) asked whether there was any reason why members' capitation fees should not be shown in Area accounts. Quite a large proportion of members' subscriptions were side-tracked into the general account.

W. J. MUSTERS (Registrar) said that capitation fees were a contribution which members made to Headquarters (*see note 1, p. vii*).

T. C. GOUGH (West Midlands Area) asked if they could have an explanation why, on the Income and Expenditure Account, the item for Administrative Staff had gone up to the extent of about £800.

THE REGISTRAR replied briefly. (*Details given in Note 2, on p. vii, show an increase of £28 only.*)

D. S. CAMPBELL said that, as he had reported, there had been no material increase in expenditure for the year 1936-7. There had in fact been, on the whole, very little increase for the past three years. They would remember that at the emergency meeting Hubert Secretan had spoken about a scheme for trying to awaken a sense of responsibility in members and a scheme for Builders. They were to

give that a trial run for six months, and if at the end of June the Finance Committee found that they were not likely to make ends meet they would seriously consider retrenchment. That still held good.

R. BIDDULPH (West Midlands Area) said that as regards administrative staff expenditure they must remember that a casual vacancy for a month or two might make a difference of between £100 and £200. With regard to capitation fees, he thought it was well understood by most members that the capitation fee was a small subscription which they gave to Headquarters, not something which they gave for area expenses.

R. K. CANNING (W. Midlands, N. Wales & Border Counties) said that the last sentence of the Report referred to liabilities exceeding assets by £217 10s. od., and asked for an explanation of this item in view of the fact that the Capital Account stood at £4,872.

J. HARRISON (Accounts Department, H.Q.) explained that the Capital Account balance of £4,872 referred to was the accumulated excess of income over expenditure previous to the granting of the Royal Charter in 1922. Since that date the annual surpluses or deficits had been shown in the Income and Expenditure Account, which at present disclosed an accumulated deficit of £5,089. The difference between those two accounts gave the excess of liabilities over assets of £217 10s. od.

Lt.-Col. Sir COLIN JARDINE (Southern Area) said he would like to say a word about the 'Light Brigade.' That body had subscribed over £4,000. Toc H finance was still in a critical position, and he thought that there was a strong claim to appeal again to those members of the 'Light Brigade' who had already subscribed. Many of them were, he thought, people to whom a few pounds did not matter very much. He considered it a legitimate appeal. They could not go on doing it, but might do it again this year.

J. F. ODELL said he was not suggesting that capitation fees should be shown in Area accounts. If capitation fees were, say, £50 they should be shown on both sides of the accounts as still going to Headquarters, and in such a way as would enable them to explain to members where all their money, and not part of it, had gone to.

The Annual Report

THE HON. ADMINISTRATOR said that he would not take much time in introducing the Report, especially as Tubby was to second it. He welcomed, and he was sure the Council would welcome, Tubby's readiness to play that particular part that afternoon, because it symbolized something which was important always, a real unity in the team which was responsible for the welfare of Toc H in its wider aspects. That did not mean that they must all think alike. God forbid! He was the most unmusical man alive, but if he might dare venture on a musical metaphor what was needed to keep Toc H healthy and vigorous was not unison but harmony.

The Report was a plain record of real difficulty and of unparalleled opportunity. If Toc H was important in the years of comparative calm that followed the Great War, it was incomparably more important to-day, when the affairs of the world were one great question mark and men's hearts were failing them for fear. The point he wanted to make was this. The inner core of Toc H was a way of life. Where and in what direction it fell to them to carry that way of life did not greatly matter. In sober fact all of them knew that they only possessed that way of life in part: it was something that beckoned them on but which they counted themselves not yet to have attained.

In such a case they had two possible choices. To turn inwards, to perfect their machinery, to hug to themselves the selfish notion that by exclusion they were getting nearer and nearer to their ideal—and to damn Toc H as a factor in the building of God's kingdom. Or they could resolutely carry what they had of Toc H outwards, not as their own closely guarded treasure, but as God's merchandise towards which they played the part of common carriers. That was what the Report was intended to convey. There must be order, discipline, system among the carriers. But that was the means only. The end was to make available the merchandise with which God had thought fit to entrust them for the common use of Everyman within whose reach they could place it.

TUBBY, who received a great welcome, rose, he said, at Hubert's suggestion to second the acceptance of the Report. He went on:—

"Addressing myself to the main body of the Report I note 'A Unifying Influence' is the first heading, and I think it is true. It certainly is true about Toc H within itself, where unity prevails. It is a union in diversity; but all the more it is a genuine union. That union, sometimes strained by strong conviction, is deepened by these anxious times. God has upheld Toc H through many crises, and we believe His Hand is stretched out still.

I have not time to comment on page 8. The tribute it pays to Alec Gammon and to Geoffrey Foster we would all re-echo.

Page 9 concerns the growth in the three Services—the Navy would insist that there are four, since the Merchant Navy is now recognised as in the closest, truest partnership with the King's ships. Kipling foresaw a portion of this truth, but not the whole as it has come to be. This winter you most kindly let me go to lend a hand at Gib. and then at Malta. Thanks to that most devoted Governor, Sir Charles Harington, and to Lord Wakefield, and to an anonymous donor, the House now built in Gib. is founded in all senses on a rock. Its spiritual head is Padre Brown, who, for some twenty years, has been the Christ-loving conservator of all that is best within the life of Gib. He represents the Church of Sergeant Ince, the Methodist who built the galleries in the Great Siege. I think I am right in saying that a grass mound in Penzance Churchyard holds the only British Sergeant who has ever received the grant of a farm from Parliament itself in recognition of his services. Padre Brown is a permanency at Gib., immune from changes in the garrison. So long as he is there, Toc H at Gib. will be a credit to the movement generally.

The House is very lovely. It embraces first a convenient hall, holding a hundred and fifty, filled and refilled with members and their friends during the first week of its operations. Beyond the hall is Philip Ransome's Room, a Quiet Room dedicated to the young Captain of H.M.S. *Gipsy*, who prior

to his death had joined Toc H. Beyond it, on the right of a small passage, are two rooms which form an inner flat, established for the Warden and his wife and their small boy, Tony, all of them very able amateurs. We owe their choice to Captain Garnons Williams, and E. A. Kitch has proved himself our man indeed. Then come the kitchen and domestic offices; and beyond is the Chaplain's Cabin, a lovely little room available for Naval Chaplains, many of whom are now members of Toc H, or friends of it. Beyond this is a very cheerful games room, where darts and ping-pong harass one another; and looking out over the Yard and Harbour, with an amazing prospect of the Spanish hills and Algeciras Bay, there is the loveliest terrace in Toc H. This great verandah, which in summer time will catch whatever air reaches the Rock, is the most charming feature of a house which won, upon their visit, commendation from both Commanders-in-Chief, and from the First Sea Lord, when he came out to visit the two Fleets. The House is linked up with the Merchant Navy, and with civilian members of Toc H; it shines right out towards all passengers, bound east and west, through those now most anxious seas.

From Malta, Bullock and myself are eager to ask the Council to bestow its blessing on Dickie Dines and his devoted wife, and all that is now going forward there. Malta now holds two houses. That at Sliema is residential to a high degree. The Tighe house is for the local portion of the shore garrison and for their guests. Beyond this is a Branch at Valetta, led by the Suffolk Regiment, and a Wing at Calafra. No one who knows the facts of growth can question the character and vigour of Toc H. Instead to-day of having a few sailors in a few ships devoted to Toc H, most ships in the Mediterranean Fleet now reckon to have some real members, and really well-liked members of Toc H. This is a great responsibility, of which Toc H at home must be proudly conscious.

The Report proceeds to mention the Far East, and to discuss our general attitude. I cordially concur with what is written; and do not dare delay you any more. I would, how-

ever, venture a word concerning the great Leprosy Campaign, which has become, and rightly become, the focus of a very widespread effort. In this we all must share as best we can; and I am very certain that a blessing will follow every member who regards this issue as a work which he must help.

'What is Toc H?' 'They do things' is the answer.

It may not be, it cannot be, complete. Nothing we do is finer or more potent than the support behind our volunteers.

Financially, Toc H is gathering weight; and while our goal is still a great way off, I would congratulate the membership upon the gallant effort they are making. The Hill Difficulty is a test of reality. The way of Christ, like ancient Roman roads, must run straight on; it cannot be diverted. Civilisation is an ingenuity intended to bring ease into men's lives; but we must climb this tiresome hill together. It was not only Bunyan who perceived that Christian fell from running to going, and from going to clambering upon his hands and knees. Stevenson said that God perceived this also; and God, who knows our future, is content."

The Chairman asked that the Annual Report, having been moved and seconded, should be received. This was agreed to unanimously.

A Council Week-end

TUBBY said that the Council ought to have full time for talk, understanding and prayer together. He did not believe the Council was exercising the influence it should upon the movement in the absence of time for those things. Therefore he was very anxious to win their favourable consideration for the suggestion that they should go back to what was far easier before the membership was so great and things were simpler in some kind of ways. He thought they should definitely make the same agreement about the Council next year as was made once a year by the Central Executive, namely that the Council should meet for a week-end. It could begin at the normal time and go on till night, and there could be unrestricted fellowship and worship on the morrow. A common mind

and greater intimacy one with another could only occur if Councillors were here for a week-end. In that way there would be easement for everything, and discussion would not be foreshortened as it was at present; the Council would become a corporate body in a very real sense.

R. R. CALKIN (General Secretary) said that Councillors would remember that they were asked last December to vote as to which they preferred. 120 Councillors were asked. 29 voted for the usual arrangements on the Saturday only; 5 were indifferent, and 53 voted for a week-end—a total of 87.

In discussion, C. COLEGRAVE SCOTT (Lake-land Area) asked whether the Council meeting could be held in a more central place than London, say in the Midlands. (This suggestion, when put to the Council, was rejected). Another Councillor said that the next Council might be an entirely different body; if it was decided to have a week-end, he suggested it should be every two years. Another wondered if billeting the whole Council would present difficulties, and TUBBY answered that every effort would be made to overcome them. Sir COLIN JARDINE said that they needed more time to consider major problems among themselves and that could only be done in a week-end and, he suggested, by dividing the Councillors into groups for discussion.

TUBBY then moved his proposal that the Council should meet for a week-end next year. It was seconded by J. FORRESTER (North Western Area) who hoped that they would not meet at the same time as the Cup Final, and welcomed the proposal for April 15-16. The motion was carried.

Problems from West Africa

JOHN DALY (Bishop of Gambia and the Rio Pongas) said that the West Coast of Africa welcomed enormously the work done by Toc H for the lepers. It was a joy to know that Toc H had that work in hand.

The next thing was whether they would consider whether something might be done for their black visitors to this country. Probably they did not realise how terribly isolated those people were when they came to Eng-

land. One young man who had been two years in Dublin, studying medicine at the University, did not know a single white man there. He wondered whether Toc H would consider tackling a job of this kind. These fellows had no means of making contact with white people. They were the kind of people to get into the fellowship of Toc H. They were good mixers, and had always got something interesting to say and were always interested in what other people had to say. They would be useful members of Toc H. Their ideas of service were more deeply rooted than those of young men in England. For some reason they always thought of them as backward people: he had not found them so. He had found them very intelligent, very good friends, and very keen builders of the kingdom of God. If they kept their eyes open they would find in them a very ready willingness to be introduced to Toc H. They in West Africa simply longed that those lads should meet the best that England could show them.

CYRIL PEARSON (Chief Overseas Commissioner) said that the African students staying at Aggrey House regularly visited Mark II and the people at Mark II were going to Aggrey House. That was only a beginning.

Two Talks on National Fitness

Two speakers on the Government's scheme for National Fitness had been invited to address the Council. At the request of the first, Mr. KENNETH LINDSAY, Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education, these were timed to begin at 3.30 p.m. but on account of his non-arrival were postponed. At the conclusion of the Council's business Mr. DONALD HALL, of the National Fitness Council, was called upon, and made a speech which, alike by the clearness of its matter and the charm of his manner, delighted the Council. He described the organisation of the scheme, the purposes for which grants would be given and the conditions on which they might be claimed. As he finished speaking, Mr. LINDSAY arrived and spoke at some length on the progress already achieved in physical fitness by public education and the needs still waiting to be met.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman

J. M. DONALDSON (Eastern Area) said that, as this was the last occasion on which Sutherland Graeme would preside over the Council's deliberations, they would all wish to thank him. Sutherland Graeme had been a member of Harpenden Branch since the beginning. As Chairman of the Eastern Area Executive he had never missed a meeting. R. FAWCETT (Groups in Scotland Areas) supported 'Skipper' Donaldson. He said that in their infrequent visits to London Councillors always regarded their Chairman as someone they loved. They scarcely knew what they would do without him. As Scotsmen, they now welcomed him home.

P. SUTHERLAND GRAEME, who was much moved, said he thanked God for the opportunity that he had been privileged to be connected with such a great brotherhood as that of Toc H. He felt it most deeply that by

reason of being supposed to be over the age when one was capable of doing anything valuable, and of being of just that age when one could be removed to a far distant spot on what he regarded as a totally inadequate pension, it was felt that it was time he should retire. Of the many organisations with which he had been connected and in which he had been privileged to play a humble part, he could honestly say that it was in Toc H that his heart for the last 15 years had lain. He would of course continue as far as that humble pension permitted to be a builder of the thing in which he believed, and would continue to believe, as long as life lasted (cheers).

In conclusion

Prayers at the end of the meeting were conducted by BOBS FORD (Administrative Padre). A large number of Councillors then adjourned to the Press Club for supper together, according to a very pleasant precedent of other years.

Three Notes

1. *Capitation Fees.* By the terms of the Charter every member shall pay an annual subscription. It was laid down by the Central Executive at an early stage that 2s. in respect of each member should be forwarded to Headquarters as a registration fee and a small contribution towards the office expenses of Headquarters. It is laid down in the Charter that such payment is a necessary condition of the privilege of membership of Toc H. Branch and Group contributions are in a different category. They are the voluntary efforts of the members towards a common fund for the maintenance and extension of Toc H. This fund is supplied partly by members and Builders within each Area, partly by members and Builders who make their contributions direct to Headquarters, and partly by interest on investments. Any Area which supplies through members and Builders less than the amount it costs must of necessity be drawing upon the common fund to that extent. Any Area which supplies more is helping Toc H as a whole.

2. *Administrative and Office Staff.* The following figures explain the apparent increase of £960 in salaries and wages. In 1935-36, £494, being

part salaries of permanent members of the staff, was borne by the Coming-of-Age Festival account, in accordance with the time during which they were engaged in this special work; in 1936-37 this relief to the main account did not occur. In 1936-37 the amount for salaries included £438 for Services Staff, provided under and paid for by the special Services gift which appears on the other side of the account. There has, therefore, been a net increase of £28 only, which is more than accounted for by normal increments. It should be noted that the cost of Padre staff in 1936-37 showed a reduction of £279.

3. *Investments.* A question was asked at the Council meeting regarding the holding of £10,000 Canadian Pacific Railway 4 per cent. Preference Stock. This stock was a gift to Toc H in 1928 and is shown in the Balance Sheet at its value at the date of the gift, in accordance with the standard practice. The market value of the investments at the end of the financial year is also shown. It is well known that the value of this stock has fallen considerably. The Central Finance Committee periodically reviews the investments held by Toc H and is guided in dealing with them by the best advice obtainable.

Appendix : Toc H and the L.W.H.

This is the text of a report on "Progress along the lines indicated in the Report made to the Council in 1937," which was circulated to all Councillors beforehand (see page ii).

IT will be remembered that that Report (to the Council in 1937) envisaged the establishment of a stable relationship between the two

movements and the promotion of "natural ways of co-operation in the faith that when and if a constitutional change is required we

shall be guided to take the right course." It is on these matters that a Report is now presented.

1. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO MOVEMENTS.

(a) The Central Executive have agreed to the deletion of Article III (d) of the L.W.H. Constitution, reading as follows:—

"That no new Branch or Group shall be established by this Association in any place except with the sanction of the local Branch of Toc H, or, where the unit of Toc H is a Group, with the sanction of the Central Executives of Toc H and of the L.W.H."

The effect of this, in the words of the Report made to the L.W.H. Central Council, is that "it is for the L.W.H. to initiate its own new growth and that this is not the responsibility of Toc H, though we shall of course still work in collaboration with them." This change has now been formally approved by the L.W.H. Central Council.

(b) The hard and fast rules in regard to pilgrimages and joint meetings in 'Rules of the Road,' Appendix X, which gave the impression of imposed restrictions, are being replaced by a statement of mutual agreement, incorporated in a revised para. 41 of 'Rules of the Road,' that separate meetings and pilgrimages should be the normal plan, and an indication of the positive reasons which should regulate joint activities.

These changes may appear formal, but they do in fact establish the position that Toc H and the L.W.H. can co-operate on a footing of mutual equality instead of the L.W.H. being in a position of subordination to Toc H.

2. CO-OPERATION OF TOC H AND L.W.H.

Following the general plan laid down in last year's Report, and having in view the aim of steadily increasing understanding on either side, arrangements have been made as follows:—

(a) With the concurrence of the Central Executive the L.W.H. Central Council have altered Article VII of their Constitution to read as follows:—

"A Joint Advisory Committee may be formed as and when required consisting

of an equal number of representatives, not less than three, of this Association and of Toc H Incorporated, for the purpose of discussing questions of joint policy or any matters which may arise between the two bodies."

Similarly, to quote again the Report to the L.W.H. Council, it was mutually agreed that "all arrangements for joint committees in Areas be left optional to Area Councils and Executives, such committees to be set up when they can serve a useful purpose."

The object of these arrangements is to have a flexible scheme that will enable co-operation to grow naturally and to make sure that the setting up of formal machinery does not overweight and sometimes stifle the growth of understanding.

(b) Regular meetings between representatives of the respective headquarters' staffs.

(c) Consultation between members of the Area staffs, already considerable, to be encouraged.

(d) Occasional joint training days to be arranged when the respective Area Executives and staffs, with whom the initiative must rest, consider that they will help the process of understanding and co-operation in matters of mutual concern.

(e) The Toc H and L.W.H. Central Executives to meet from time to time to review progress and to maintain touch with each other's work.

(f) Opportunities, such as presented by the Toc H Staff Conference, to be taken for staff discussions. This was done last year.

If full use is now made of these various ways of co-operation, mutual understanding should be steadily promoted and the background of knowledge created, without which no fruitful decisions regarding the future can be looked for.

3. THE NAME OF THE L.W.H.

For the time being the L.W.H. Council have decided to retain the present name, no acceptable alternative which would meet the difficulty expressed in the Report to the Council last year having yet been found.